the
SPARTANA
Homestead High School•August 15, 2016

School hacks brought to you by upperclassmen

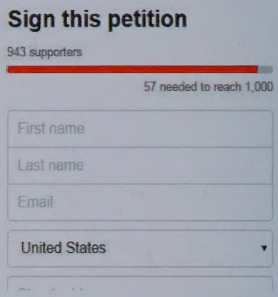
Ginder reacts to petition against dress code

Featuring the first day, regular and advisory schedules

Welcome Back!

BY MICHAL SPANJER

Cracking the Code



Student starts petition to protest new dress code rule

School dress code has been a hot topic for decades, and over the summer, a student-initiated petition, which requested that the administration take another look at a new rule concerning leggings, floated through Twitter and Facebook feeds, resulting in nearly 1000 signatures, 400 of which were made in the first 24 hours of the petition's creation. Female and male students and parents, and even some people from other schools, signed their names.

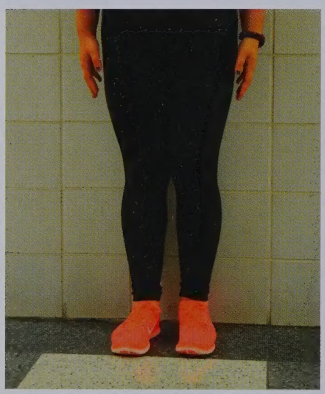


PHOTO BY YANA WEIR

The new rules states that students may only wear leggings under a dress, skirt, or shorts. Students are no longer allowed to wear them under long shirts.

Pamela Chen (11) decided to take initiative when she noticed "there was a lot of outrage over" a rule added to the dress code for this school year, which restricts students from wearing leggings, unless they are worn under a dress, skirt, or shorts of finger tip length.

"I decided to voice everyone's opinions and go ahead... and create a petition in hopes that (the administration) would change the rule," Chen said.

Park Ginder, principal, heard about the petition from an email he received from a student.

"I'm always excited when kids are interested in what's going on at school," Ginder said, adding that the administration constantly updates the dress code in accordance with new fashion trends and "just putting your name on a piece of paper or an electronic (petition)" does not grant students the power to change an administrative rule.

One of the major concerns students voiced in the comments of the petition was the disruption of education for students who are pulled out of class because of a dress code violation. Ginder responded by explaining that taking students out of class could be avoided by students following the rules in the handbook.

"A rule is fair as long as you know the consequences in advance," Ginder said. "When a student chooses to (break a rule) when it's published and well-known, sometimes they can be removed from class... Students don't seem to mind if we take them out of school to give them a book or computer or to go to the guidance office or those kinds of things. It's not much different."

Petition commenters also mentioned the misogyny attributed to the dress code policy.

On the comments of the petition students and parents expressed their opinions that female students were targeted for dressing in a way that could distract the male students.

"If you say that you want to provide a 'professional environment,' then focusing more on education and student success instead of shining a spotlight on a female's pants might help reach that goal," Kaitlyn Higi (10) said in her comment on the petition.

Ginder believes that the rule is not sexist because the dress code mostly pertained to male students a decade ago, and "no one made an issue of it" when students were banned from wearing "sagging pants and inappropriate shirts that were suggestive in nature." He noted that the dress code focuses more on female students now because of the modern fashion trends.

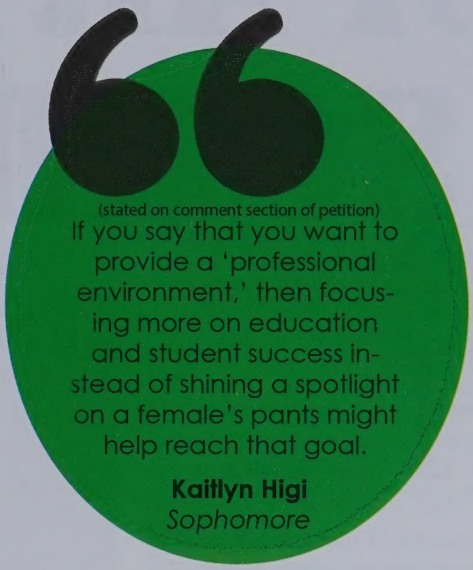
"Because we're people and we wear clothes, a rule's going to hit one group potentially more than another and the only reason I think someone might consider this rule misogynistic is currently, in our culture, boys aren't wearing yoga pants," Ginder said. "It doesn't have to be about sex and I think sometimes we make things bigger than they really are."

Chen explained that allowing female students to dress in a way that makes them feel "more comfortable" would allow the student body to thrive, but she clarified that she does not believe that has to mean eliminating the entire dress code.

"Most of the other rules in the dress code, I can see a reason (behind)... but leggings I feel like are harmless and don't affect anyone," Chen said.

Students and parents who signed the petition agreed with her sentiment. Michelle Murfin (11) believes the dress code "is good" to "a certain degree," but views the leggings restriction as "unnecessary."

Comments on the petition ranged from hopes to discard all of the restrictions in the dress code to hopes to make the dress code more lenient. "People should be allowed to wear whatever they want within reason and leggings are completely reasonable," Kamari Kendrick (11) said in his comment on the petiton.


(stated on comment section of petition)
If you say that you want to provide a 'professional environment,' then focusing more on education and student success instead of shining a spotlight on a female's pants might help reach that goal.
Kaitlyn Higi
Sophomore

Ginder explained that the administration created the new rule in an effort to keep students from breaking the ban they had already placed on leggings.

"We felt that the rule last year should've worked, but there were a significant number of students who chose not to follow the dress code and it was really unfair to those kids who did," Ginder said. "We just reshaped the rule so it would be more manageable to enforce... There are a lot of students who really, really support the dress code and their parents do too."

Ginder believes that every rule of the dress code is necessary to maintain a professional and educational environment.

"Attire affects behavior," Ginder said. "Some weeks, like when we have spirit week, rules get a little bit looser and it does impact the culture of the building... What we're trying to do always is to create an outstanding learning environment and making sure that the number one thing that happens in school is learning and not about drawing attention to myself."

Ginder determined that the petition will not affect the the dress code and, while Chen still hopes the administration will adapt the rules in the future, she does not "encourage students to go ahead and break the rules." Although students "might not agree with administration," Chen made it clear that students should not attempt to "go against them."

SPARTANA'S SCHOOL SUR DECLA

EMMA PEARL

Life Editor

High School. You might run screaming from the idea, as it has become a beast in the eye of the students. Many students feel that they are stuck in a sort of secondary school limbo, where nothing they do truly matters, and yet the expectations for their careers are already weighing down their shoulders.

With parents standing behind them, telling them that it will be the best four years of their lives, and their future in front of them, bright with all the opportunities but looming with responsibility, tough decisions, and debt—it can be a bit scary, no?

However, within the frightening abyss of formative years, there is a light at the end of the tunnel—advice from the elderly.

The school's students offer their words of wisdom to freshman, new students or anyone else feeling like they have no clue what is going on.

"I think that the teachers always expect the students to try their best at everything they do, whether it's in academics or extra curriculars. I've noticed that classes seem the hardest in the beginning of the year and then get easier curriculum-wise and as the student gets more used to what the class is about and what the teacher expects."

- Brynn Devine (11)

Ali Qureshi (11), Becca Mallott (12), Madison McConah
Smith (12) and Nate Vasquez (12) sit in discussion for

"Try and make friends with the teacher, and make sure you do your homework and turn it in on time. Remember that one bad grade does not define the rest of your life, and try your best each day. Attitude is everything!"

- Spencer North (12)

"High scho
time to exp

- Lindsey Lackland, G

"Get fun classes in yo
overload yourself wit

SSIFIED
VIVAL GUIDE

PHOTO BY YANA WEIR

Gabe
io class, a popular elective course at the school.

"I would say that Homestead has a lot of different options for classes and schedules, especially as you get to your junior and senior year. I, personally, am interested in medicine, so I had the chance to take the PLTW biomed track as well as lots of health and biology related sciences, which is pretty cool."
- Sydney Adams (11)

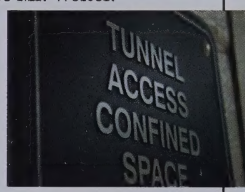
...is a
ore.
nce Counselor

schedule. Don't
ugh classes."
amantha Schubert (12)

"I think it's important that you take courses that challenge you rather than taking ones that you feel are too easy. You will gain a better education experience."
- Guneet Lalria (11)

LIFE HACKS: SPARTY STYLE

- Freshman Fridays do NOT exist.
- The most coveted cafeteria table is the one closest to the food—you have to work your way up there.
- Homestead is an air-dry only school, so if you ever need a paper towel find a teacher. The faculty restrooms are stocked.
- The main hallway is overrated.
- If you have not done your summer reading, DO IT TONIGHT.
- Your teachers actually do not have first names, and you should find out what they are so you can email them.
- Squires' room has the best cell reception—publications and TV have the worst.
- There are tunnels under the school. If you want to find out if ghosts live down there, see Mr. Wolter.
- Mr. Stailey uses his own casket as a cabinet in his garage.
- The first four rows of any stand at games belong to the student section and seniors.
- To avoid PDA stay away from the short foreign language hall and the show choir hallway.
- Bring food to advisory.
- There will be a coffee bar in the morning to recover from your studious all-nighters.
- Read the Spartana, buy a yearbook and participate in shameless self-promotion.
- Watch your language in Mr. Mitchell's hallway.
- You can get daily announcements on the Homestead page under quick links.



Pokemon Go will soon be gone

Opinion by ETHAN ZWEIG

The summer's newest safety hazard arrives in a barely successful attempt to fulfill gamers' dreams of poaching wildlife and engaging in arbitrary gang-style turf wars. With the release of Pokemon Go, smartphone users who have the app are led into worlds they hoped to never see; for those with limited video game experience: the lingo and uncomfortable cuteness of Pokemon games; for active gamers: going outside.

Pokemon Go is a new mobile game that uses a phone's GPS signal to place Pokemon, mostly adorable fictional animals, at nearby locations, and allows the player to walk around in order to find them and capture them with trans-dimensional capsules known as Pokeballs. The game encourages walking around and collaborating with others in order to "catch them all," regardless of the dire effects on the local ecosystem.

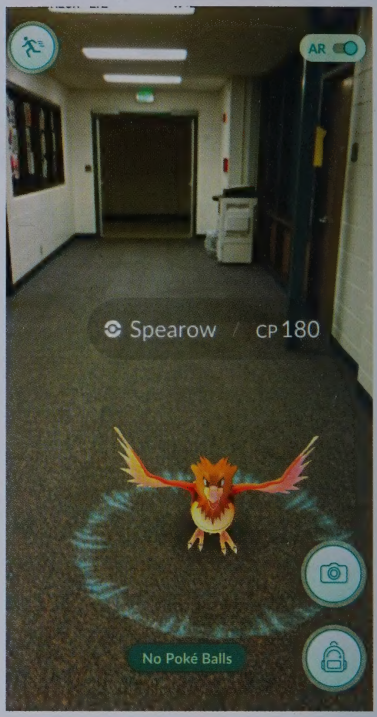
"At one point, I went outside in the middle of the night in nothing but a towel so I could catch a Hypno," Michael Shimkus (11) said. "This game (was) kind of a big deal."

In addition, due to the procedurally-generated Pokemon appearing in random places, dedicated players have resorted to unconventional means to find Pokemon, including jumping over the White House fence, crossing busy highways and walking into swimming pools.

When players finally reach the Pokemon, they play a minigame using Augmented Reality on their phone, which places a 3D image of the creature in the real world. Players are given Pokeballs to lob at the creatures in hopes of capturing them, with all the trajectory-based difficulty of the Angry Birds series.

"Once you play it for a while, you realize that it doesn't really matter that much to catch Pokemon, and once you get to a high enough level, it gets sort of monotonous," Ransom McCafferty (11) said. "The only excitement left is catching rare Pokemon that you haven't caught yet, which happens much less often once you get higher in level."

Although Pokemon Go captured the nostalgia of people who played Pokemon years ago, and successfully encouraged exercise and cooperation among its players, the game has many technical bugs, lacks retention mechanics and fails to completely deliver on the dreams of Pokemon fans or the capability of Augmented Reality. The social media hype is fading,



and while the game is impressive for Niantic (the developer company) having only 30 employees, more staff will need to be hired onto the project if Pokemon Go plans to Pokemon Stay.

Lunch schedules

Ankenbruck.....D	Decker.....B	Hill.....A	Meyers.....D	Rich.....A	Stumpf.....A
Arata.....A	Dillman.....A	Hirschy.....C	Middleton.....D	Ricker.....B	Tembras.....C
Arias.....B	Downs.....B	Hoeppner.....C	Miller.....D	Rietdorf.....A	Tiernon.....A
Bailey.....B	Drayer.....C	Hoffacker.....A	Mitchell.....C	Rodgers.....B	Todor.....A
Baltes.....C	Elder.....A	Huhn.....B	Moss.....B	Rogers.....C	Truman.....B
Barber.....A	Enderle.....A	Husar.....B	Murphy.....D	Rose.....D	Uhey.....B
Beer.....C	Fisher.....C	Jaeger.....B	Nelson.....C	Sagnon.....B	Vail.....A
Behrens.....A	Frazier.....A	Karkosky.....A	Nicholson.....D	Salway.....A	Veit.....A
Bender.....D	Frye.....A	Kirby.....A	Nowak.....C	Schenkel.....C	Vickrey.....C
Bishop.....D	Gamble.....D	Koehrn.....A	Olivero.....C	Schill.....B	Wadkins.....A
Bogdonanwicz.....A	Gehl.....B	Lamping.....D	Panning.....D	Schmidt.....B	Waite.....B
Bollman.....B	Gentis.....D	Lenfestey.....A	Partee.....D	ShattoJones.....B	Walters.....A
Bowman.....D	Gerig.....D	Libbing.....D	Patterson.....C	Shaw.....A	Ward.....C
Brown.....D	Graham.....A	Lines.....A	Peck.....D	Shramek.....D	Wenning.....C
Byall.....B	Gray.....A	Lisak.....B	Peeper.....A	Sipe.....D	Whitt.....C
Calhoun.....C	Green.....D	Livensparger.....B	Pickett.....B	Skelton.....D	Wolf.....A
Campbell.....A	Grote.....D	Lombardo.....A	Price.....C	Smith.....C	Wolter.....C
Cogdell.....B	Grundtisch.....B	Maher.....B	Qureshi.....A	Squires.....B	Wyss.....B
Colglazier.....C	Ham.....C	Manco.....B	Radloff.....A	Stailey.....D	Yde.....B
Crawford.....A	Harkness.....B	McNeal.....C	Rauber.....C	Steverson.....A	Zolman.....D
Cronk.....A	Imbody-Hill.....C	Merkling.....A	Reinking.....A	Straub.....A	

Saved by the bells

First Day

Advisory **7:45 - 8:10**
1st period **8:16 - 8:56**
2nd period **9:02 - 9:42**
3rd period **9:48 - 10:28**
4th period **10:34 - 11:14**
5th period **11:20 - 1:01**
Lunch A **11:14**
Lunch B **11:41**
Lunch C **12:08**
Lunch D **12:35**
6th period **1:07 - 1:48**
7th period **1:54 - 2:35**

Regular

1st period **7:45 - 8:30**
2nd period **8:36 - 9:21**
3rd period **9:27 - 10:14**
4th period **10:20 - 11:05**
5th period **11:11 - 12:52**
Lunch A **11:05**
Lunch B **11:32**
Lunch C **11:59**
Lunch D **12:26**
6th period **12:58 - 1:43**
7th period **1:49 - 2:35**

Advisory

1st period **7:45 - 8:24**
2nd period **8:30 - 9:09**
Advisory **9:15 - 9:45**
3rd period **9:51 - 10:33**
4th period **10:39 - 11:18**
5th period **11:24 - 1:05**
Lunch A **11:18**
Lunch B **11:45**
Lunch C **12:12**
Lunch D **12:39**
6th period **1:11 1:50**
7th period **1:56 2:35**

Spartana Staff

Arika Akin
Lauren Berta
Lisa Chen
Winter Freeman
Alexis Jordan
Emma Leininger
Emma Pearl
Michal Spanjer
Tessa Virgilio
Yana Weir
Kaylee Yanovich
Ethan Zweig

Adviser
Terri Nowak

Contact Spartana:
thespartana@gmail.com

Find Sparatan:
Across the hall from 622

View Spartana:
hhsspartana.com

Follow Spartana:
@TheSpartana

Read Spartana:
Look for the new magazine style publication delivered to your first period class at least once a month.

Editorial Policy

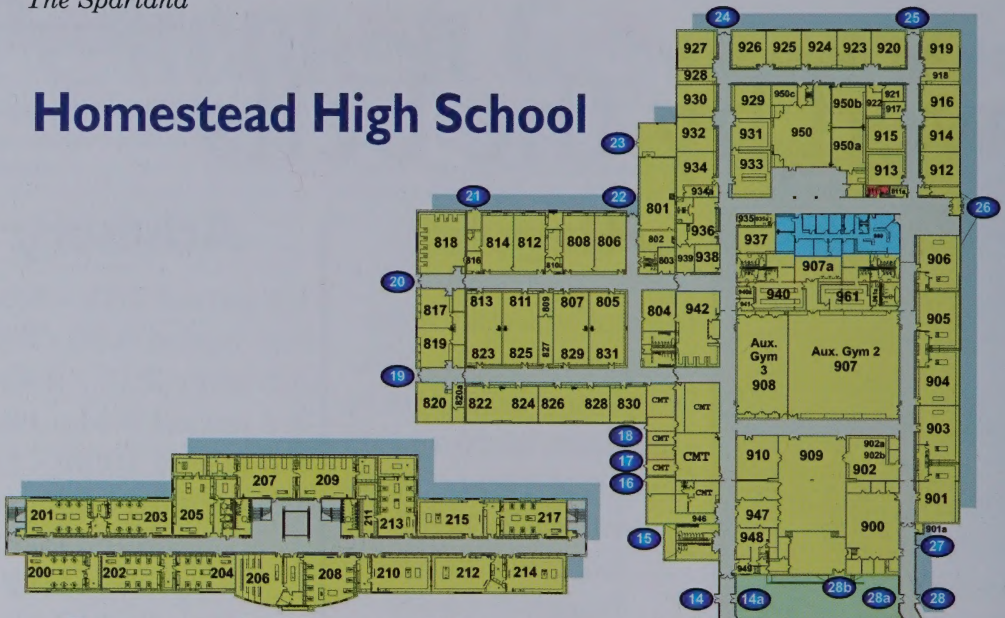
The Spartana is a monthly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

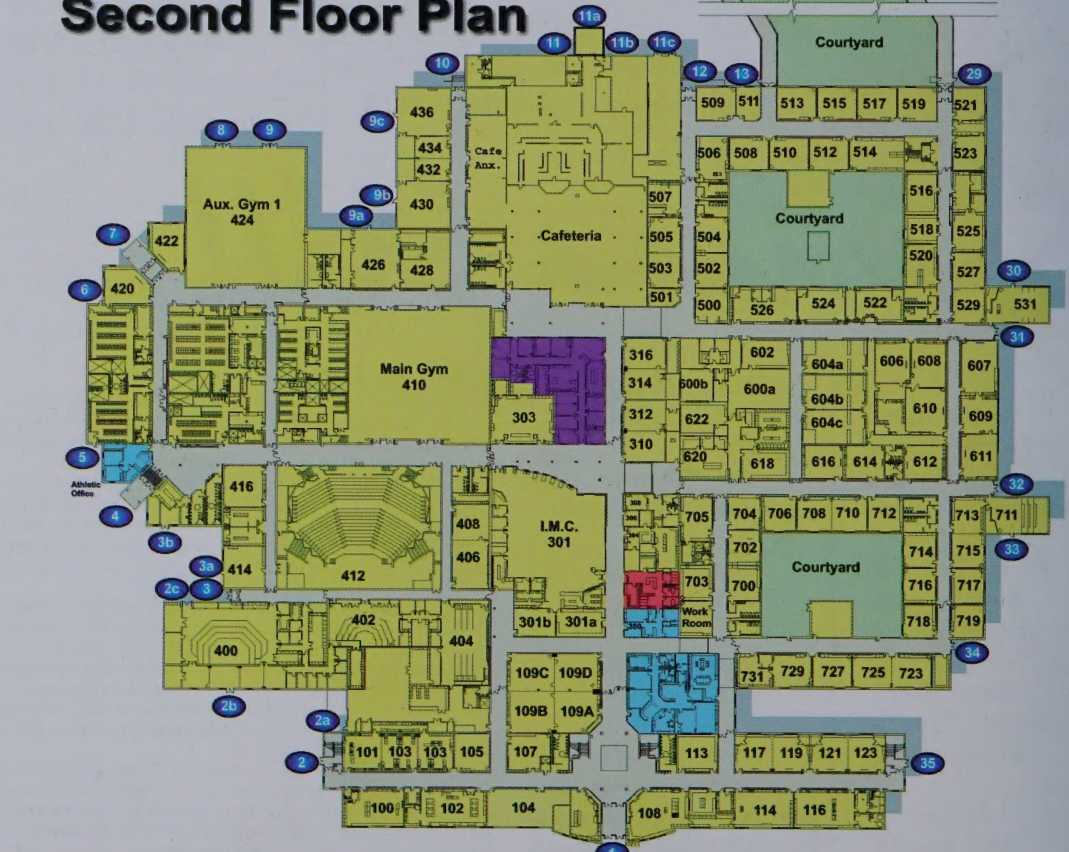
Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed. Southwest Allen County School corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be emailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

Homestead High School



Second Floor Plan



First Floor Plan

the SPARTANA

FIND OUT THE BEST PLACES TO STUDY IN FORT WAYNE

PREPARING FOR HOMECOMING: ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW!

UPDATE ON BAND: THE HEAT OF COMPETITION SEASON

Photo by Alan Haupert

Table of Contents

3. Homecoming
4. Study Places
5. Foreign Exchange
6. Healthy Lunches
7. Concertgoers
8. Spartan Alliance
10. Teaching Strategies
11. School Beautification
12. Cross Country
13. Boys Tennis
14. Student Government
15. The Network

National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists

Homestead High School is proud to announce the names of five semi-finalists in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program. These students include Jordan Bailey, daughter of Jeff and Rita Bailey; Kolin Davis, son of Keith and Dawn Davis; Samual Dvorak, son of David and Karen Dvorak; Shriya Jain, daughter of Sushil and Preeti Jain and Ellis Yoder, son of Ben Yoder and Catherine Periolat. The nationwide pool of semifinalists representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state.

Spartana Staff

Editor-In-Chiefs
Michal Spanjer and
Ethan Zweig

Writers
Lauren Berta
Lisa Chen
Lexi Jordan
Winter Freeman

Photo Editor
Yana Weir

Online Editors
Kaylee Yanovich
Lexi Jordan

News Editor
Arika Akin

Opinion Editor
Emma Leininger

Life Editor
Emma Pearl

Social Media Manager
Emma Leininger

Advisers
Terri Nowak
Justin Peeper

Editorial Policy

The Spartana is a monthly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed. Southwest Allen County School corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be emailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

HOMECOMING

WHAT TO KNOW FOR FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 23

- Wear HHS colors to school
- Pep Session (Altered Schedule)
- Varsity football game against Northside High School at 7 p.m.
-Wear your Homecoming Shirt

PHOTO BY MORGAN HALLIWILL

The culminating event of Homecoming is the varsity football game Friday night against the Northside Legends. Events leading up to the game will include Homecoming week themes and the Survival of the Spartans competition. The winners of the preliminary round of Survival of the Spartans will compete tomorrow, for a champoinship at the pep session.

Both staff and students Homestead show school spirit by sporting their blue and gold or one of the week's spirit day themes. Pictured: front row: Alayna Kriegel (12), Afua Addo (12); middle row: Kent Mitchell (teacher), Luke Lael (11), Lauren Stowe (11), Charlotte Hagedorn (10), Liam Schoff (12), Matt Wetherill; back row: Tiffany Ham (teacher), Nana Gyeman (9) and Joe Wolter (teacher).

Briefs

JCL ITALY TRIP

Students who have completed one year or more of Latin and are in or willing to join the Junior Classical League are eligible to go on the Indiana JCL Italy trip from June 12 to June 22. Students will leave from Indianapolis and spend nine days exploring the cities of Italy with a focus on Roman language and culture.

WRITING CENTER

Nicole Detter, IMC Specialist, has organized a student-led writing center to help students with writing assignments. Any student who desires help can email ndetter@sacs.k12.in.us to get a pass during their second, third or fourth period study halls, seminars or teaching assistantships. Students who are interested in helping others can talk to Detter about training for next semester.

COSTA RICA TRIP

Students who have completed two years of Spanish classes and would like to be immersed in Spanish language and culture can travel to Costa Rica this June. Interested students can talk to Justin Peeper, Spanish teacher, at jpeeper@sacs.k12.in.us. The six spots left on the trip are on a first come first serve basis.

STUDENT LEARNING ALLIANCE

Students who are interested in tutoring middle school students at Summit and Woodside can join Student Learning Alliance. Students tutor at Woodside on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:00-3:45 and Summit on Tuesdays from 2:45-3:30. Tutoring hours at this club are included for personal Key Club hours. For more information email studentlearningalliancehhs@gmail.com

Any student interested in creating cartoons to be used in the Spartana print edition can contact thespartana@gmail.com with ideas or to show interest for the future.*

Students who have a desire to showcase their writing in the Spartana can email thespartana@gmail.com with story ideas, completed stories, poems or other forms of writing to be used in future editions of the newspaper.*

Check out hhsspartana.com to take a poll about what you most enjoyed this Homecoming week!

*Content of The Spartana material, online or in print, is decided by the staff.

Try a NEW PLACE to study

ALEXIS JORDAN & KAYLEE YANOVICH
Online Editors, Sports Editor

PINT & SLICE is a great place to chat with friends and enjoy some wonderful food. Although this restaurant is mainly a pizza joint, it is a popular meeting area for many people around town. The restaurant also has a decorative wall outside that is great for some last minute photoshoots, as well an area upstairs where local bands come to play. The prices are fairly cheap, with a lounge area downstairs that makes for a great place to take a break from studying and hang out with some friends. The location is 816 South Calhoun Street.

THE GOLDEN is not well known by many, but it is a newly opened restaurant downtown. It is actually only open for lunch and dinner. The unique atmosphere brings in night life while still abiding to those who just want to stop for a quick lunch break. Unlike other restaurants, they are open from 11am-2pm, and then open again from 5pm-10pm. The restaurant can be also used as a place to study while enjoying good food and company. It is located on 898 Harrison Street.

While the ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY may seem as just a place for those who have a love for reading, it is also a great place for people to go and do work. The library provides a quiet and secluded area for those who just need a spot to recollect while studying. They provide multiple seating zones near the bookshelves open to the public. On the side of this area there is also a quiet study/ reading room which provides the isolation some may need. Before deciding the library is just a boring place to get books, go take a look and see all the other features they have to offer. The Allen County Public Library is located at 900 Library Plaza.

FORTEZZA could be familiar to some, as it is right across from the ever-famous Pint & Slice. However, it does not seem as many have actually ventured inside this coffee shop. Upon entering, this shop looks small and ordinary, but as one travels through the back of the shop, they will see a unique setup of different tables, chairs, lights, pillows, and couches. The atmosphere provided is a great one to sit back and relax with a good book or essay, and a great cup of coffee.

MOCHA LOUNGE is a small coffee shop with an extensive menu of anything from smoothies and tea, to frappucinos and holiday themed/seasonal drinks. The vibes from this cafe are always enjoyable, and they always have good music playing. There is a large window which allows for almost all natural lighting, which is easier on the eyes and the brain for anyone who wishes to study there. There are couches, tables and bar seating to fit anyone's ideal relaxation style. Mocha Lounge is located at 6312 Covington Road.

PHOTOS BY KAYLEE YANOVICH

fROM faR AWAY TO FORT WAYNE

Foreign exchange students excited about life as a Spartan

The foreign exchange program is a wonderful opportunity for students to travel to other countries or for students across the sea to travel to America. The school has new foreign exchange students every year, and each time those students bring a part of their culture to the student body. This year, there are three students at the school involved in this program: Fabian Gnaf (11), Tobias Tittjung (11) , and Nurudreen Bose (11). Gnaf and Tittjung are both from Germany and Bose is from Nigeria.

As many would have thought, the school systems in Germany are different than the school systems here.

"The biggest difference is between classes," Gnaf said. "In America you change classes every period but in Germany you don't change your classroom. You always stay in the same room."

In Germany, the school system is much more complex. Their school system is divided by intelligence level while ours is divided by age. Students in Germany do not learn what level of schooling they will be in until 4th grade. The three different levels from faster-paced learners, to slower-paced are the gymnasium, realschule, and hauptschule.

"I have longer school days than here," Gnaf said. "Sometimes we go until 5p.m., and every day we change the subject we are learning. I believe that is a big difference."

Getting involved in a foreign exchange program is a great experience, but it does take a lot of dedication and preparation for travel.

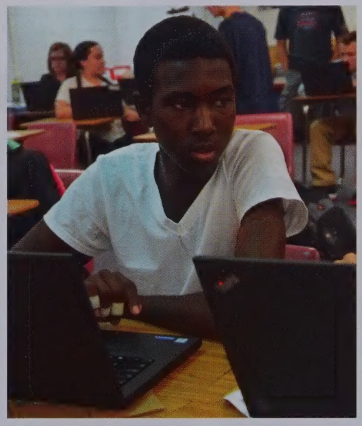
"I had six years of english in school," Tittijung said. " I wanted to learn it better and see a new culture."

The students involved in the exchange program take years of a certain language in which they want to learn more about and hopefully travel to that language-speaking country. A big part of this program is the dedication the students have to learning about different cultures and becoming a part of new environment for many months.

"I really want to enjoy this year here so that I can find new friends and that they can show me new places where I haven't been yet," Gnaf said. " I hope it's a great time."

Tittijung works with classmates on a group project.

An interesting aspect of both Gnaf and Tittijung is that they both have traveled outside of Germany before; as well as both have already been to the United States before. They both have been to places throughout Europe, such as France and Italy as well.



Bose confers with a classmate in English class.

"I travel a lot, " Gnaf said. "I actually traveled to Poland for a swimming competition one year."

They both have been to places throughout Europe such as France and Italy. Tittijung has traveled to New York City and, after he is done in Fort Wayne, he will be going to the west coast to see places like California. Gnaf spoke about his travels to Seattle which was more for fun where he switched with a friend.

With new students every year from different places all over the world, it is the job of the students to make sure the exchange students are comfortable and have the best experience possible at our school.

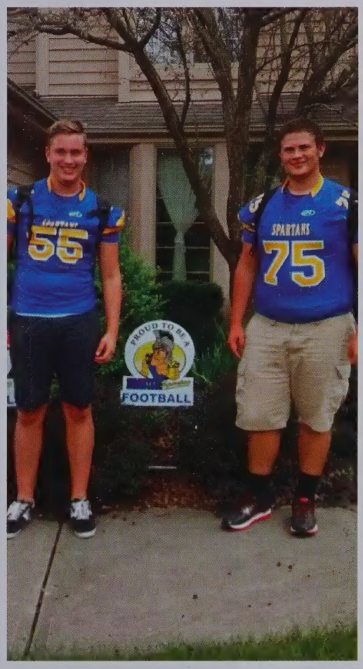


PHOTO COURTESY OF BERGOFF FAMILY

Gnaf stands with host brother before a football

By: Alexis Jordan

Online Editor

A Week of Packed Lunches

BY MICHAL SPANJER
Co Editor-in-Chief

If you're tired of spending money on school lunch everyday, or if you are simply looking for another alternative, here are some great, healthy lunch ideas that will not only save you money, but may also promote a healthier life style.

Start with spinach or kale and add any fruit and veggies of your choosing. Throw in some nuts for protein and chips on the side.

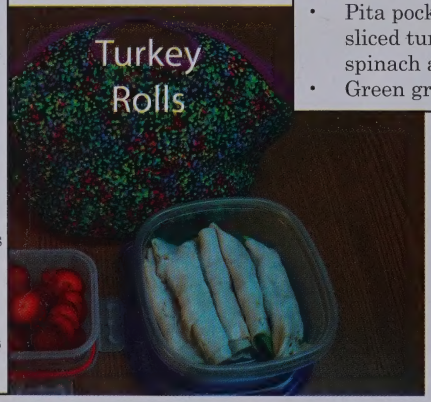
Pictured:
- Sweet potato chips
- Spinach salad with strawberries, cucumbers and almonds
- Raspberry vinaigrette dressing

For a healthier rendition of an elementary school-esque lunch, substitute a cut-up banana for jelly in your PB&J sandwich. Use yogurt for an easy side.

Pictured:
- Peanut butter cocunut spread and a banana on wheat bread
- Vanilla Greek yogurt with blueberries

Fill a pita pocket with sliced turkey, veggies and hummus. Pair it with your favorite fruit.

Pictured:
- Pita pocket with sliced turkey, avocado, spinach and hummus
- Green grapes



Wrap avocado and veggies of your choosing in slices of turkey and add some fruit on the side.

Pictured:
- Turkey rolls with avocado and spinach
- Strawberries

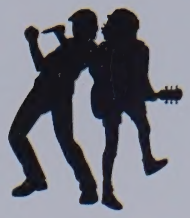
Pack carrots or peppers with hummus to dip them in. Bring an apple with almond butter on the side.

Pictured:
- Hummus with peppers
- Apple with almond butter

PHOTOS BY MICHAL SPANJER

Music beats the summer heat

ALEXIS JORDAN
Online Editor



Students look back over the concerts that made their summer great

Summer is more than just sitting by the pool and relaxing with friends, it's about creating memories that will always last. For some, these memories are made by attending summer concerts by their favorite artists. Every summer there seems to always be a new popular tour to catch or up and coming artist to see. This year there seemed to be a lot of new artists that students went to watch, while still catching those big summer tours.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JAKE CONARTY

Conarty's favorite band's bassist shreds his guitar during a performance.

Even artists not so well known caught the eye of some of the students. Jon Bellion's " The Human Condition" tour was a new tour this summer which featured Bellion's new album. Olivia Barker (11) attended his show in Milwaukee with a few of her friends.

" The people were all really chill, really nice, and it was a really fun, good experience for my first concert," Barker said.

The show was all general admission which is different from regular seating. For this show, the tickets just gave entry to the performance while the audience filled in as the show started. Bellion's tour has been sold out in an many areas prompting him to add a second leg to the tour.

" He has really unique music and each song is almost like a different genre which is interesting since I don't usually see that with artists; he is by far one of my favorites," Barker said.

Bellion's show was not the only hot show this summer as a yearly favorite came back to Indianapolis: Vans Warped Tour. The tour started in 1995 and has been touring the US every year since around the months of March to August. People from all over attend this tour and several from the school attended as well.

" I went this year and last year and there is a lot more energy to this than other shows," Jake Conarty (11) said.

This tour is unique because roughly 50 different artists performed. Conarty was most excited to see Oceans Ate Alaska, State Champs, Neck Deep, The Word Alive and Issues. The artists range from punk-rock to heavy metal. The performers are spread out among seven different stages which allows concert-goers to move around and watch their favorite bands.

" Warped Tour is one of the most fun and insane experiences you will ever have," Conarty said.

While The Human Condition tour and Warped Tour were highlights for many people's summers, Geazy's concert brought in another side of music students have been listening too. Along with artist Logic, the summer's heat was nothing compared to the heat these artists brought to the stage.

" It was a fun time, everyone was dancing, we were bumping," Abraham Kipp (11) said.

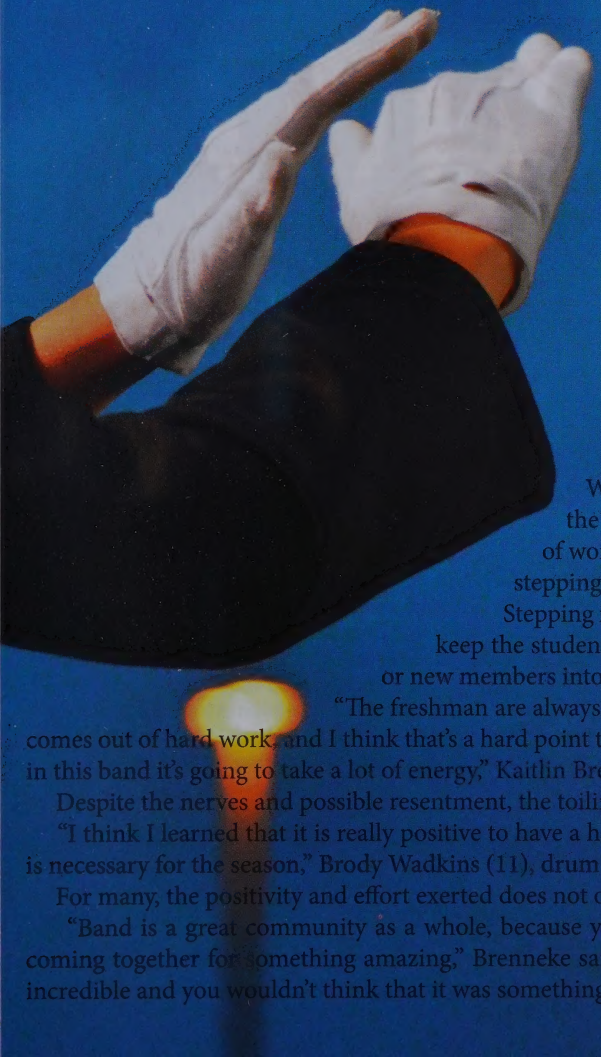
This was not the first concert Kipp has been to, but a big transition from his first ever which was the Jonas Brothers. Kipp attended this concert at the Klipsch Music Center north of Indianapolis, which he believed was a cause of the great experience he had.

" The Machine Gun Kelly concert I went to was on in this little venue and it wasn't as fun... you didn't get the feel and you know the Klipsch center is huge. There was so many people and it was sunny. You could see the beautiful sunset, and then Geazy, and it was very fun," Kipp said.

Olivia Barker (11), Anya Elizondo (11), and her brother before Bellion's concert.

Ashley-Kate Brummett (12), one of five drum majors, kicks off her senior year with a prestigious position in the Spartan Alliance Band. The other drum majors (not pictured) are Rachel Gripp (12), Casey Murray (12), Caitlyn Klinepeter-Persing (11), and Brody Wadkins (11).

A TIME TO TURN



LAUREN BERTA

Writer

A title is not merely a title. It reflects the piece, reflects the message. For the Spartan Alliance Band, it reflects the philosophy. Just as the season changes and time turns, the lives of the students turn also, particularly in the case of the seniors. These upperclassmen prepare themselves to move on to the next stages of their education, their careers and in that way this season's performance—titled A Time to Turn—is invaluable to them. However, before they can move on, they must put on a show.

"We have five drum majors who auditioned through a tough process and are our top five student leaders," Brad Wadkins, band director, said. "They are very important to the entire program, they arrive first and leave last they do a lot of work for the band program. Our seniors have done a great job stepping into their roles as well."

Stepping into a role as a leader, it is necessary to lay down the law and keep the students focused and motivated, to turn inexperienced freshmen or new members into the seasoned members students see on the field.

"The freshman are always complaining that their tired, but that's just something that comes out of hard work, and I think that's a hard point to get across to some of the freshman, that if you want to be in this band it's going to take a lot of energy," Kaitlin Brenneke (9) said.

Despite the nerves and possible resentment, the toiling away is ultimately worth it.

"I think I learned that it is really positive to have a hard-working camp because we get a lot of stuff done and it is necessary for the season," Brody Wadkins (11), drum major, said.

For many, the positivity and effort exerted does not overshadow the sense of solidarity.

"Band is a great community as a whole, because you've got an important network of both kids and parents coming together for something amazing," Brenneke said. "The outcome of everything put together is something incredible and you wouldn't think that it was something that 300 high school-ers could do."

PHOTO BY ALANA HAUPERT

Sam Mikesell (11) and Travis Bauer (11) work to finish homework in class after a night of video notes. The notes assigned to the students will generally range from 10-15 minutes, but can potentially go up to 40 minutes, depending on the lesson. These videos are a helpful tool for the students as they are have both the lesson and the teacher at their disposal. The students are able to return to the videos should they need to revisit any concept not understood.

PHOTO BY YANA WEIR

DILEMMA

EMMA PEARL

Life Editor

It would be too easy to say something about how the classroom, the school, the world, etc has moved towards technology, how they have given up on the age-old methods in favor of a more 21st century-friendly approach. Unfortunately--or fortunately, depending on the perspective--this means students right now are acting as the guinea pigs. They are some of the first able to experience the infiltration of technology into the education setting. Right now, at this school, technology is making its mark in the form of a flipped classroom.

A few of the math teachers at the school have attempted this alternate classroom setting, which includes sending students home with videos to watch over a particular lesson, and then having them work on their homework with the teacher present in class the next day. The hope for many teachers is that this will allow a little less confusion on the subject because students will be able to ask questions and receive help as they are actually practicing the skill and applying, rather than merely discussing the concept of it.

Further, this allows for each student to work at a pace they are comfortable with. Students who may grasp concepts easily are able to work ahead of the class and not be forced to listen to a teacher repeat things for students who still need the aid. Alternately, students who may need to go over a concept a few more times are able to return to the lesson and watch the videos provided by the teacher, as well as seek the help they may need in class on a much more personal setting as they would be working with the teacher one-on-one.

These points, which may seem like a clear argument in favor of the flipped classroom, are not so black and white. In fact, this flipped classroom is actually a point of contention for many students. Because the flipped classroom method is only being used with math classes at the moment, the preference towards the flipped classroom is hit or miss--similar to the reaction to the subject itself.

Students also feel that this method is making the job of the teacher obsolete. They worry that the teachers may no longer put effort into helping the students if there is such a heavy reliance on videos and other forms of media to comprise the lesson. In reality, teachers tend to work just as hard, if not harder, to find the tools to make up the lesson, and are then still responsible for re-teaching if necessary in the actual classroom. This effort may not come across to students having difficulties, which is essentially why this flipped classroom is such a hot topic of debate.

"71% of teachers indicated that grades of their students have improved since implementing a flipped classroom strategy."

LEARNDASH.COM

There will never be a teacher able to cater to the wants of every single student. The student body is diverse, especially in opinion, and to meet every demand would be unrealistic. No system is perfect. Ultimately, it is worth both the teacher and students' time to explore this technological possibility. However, stock must be put in the class reaction and result. The student body and the staff must be willing to move forward with the tools they are provided, but not at the risk of a method that works.

MAKING HOMESTEAD BEAUTIFUL

ARIKA AKIN
News Editor

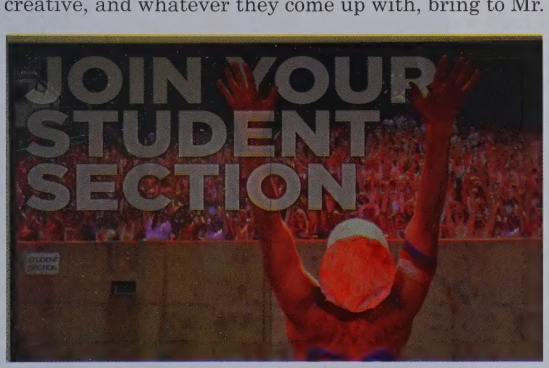
Student Government plans to continue decorations

Students have walked by the school spirit themed decorations on the walls tens, if not hundreds, of times. These posters and installations may be loved or hated, but in any case they are here to stay.

The Student Government, working with Paint The Town Graphics, an art and design company based in Fort Wayne, has been designing decorations to liven up the white halls of the school. However, there is still concern over whether these posters are really necessary. They definitely do add some color to the school, but there could certainly be better things for the school to spend money on. There are, however, some unmistakable upsides to these decorations.

These installations give students a chance to leave a lasting impact on the school, and one that can be used time and time again. According to Alyssa Braman, advisor to Student Government and freshman counselor, Student Government has worked with students in the past and will continue to do so.

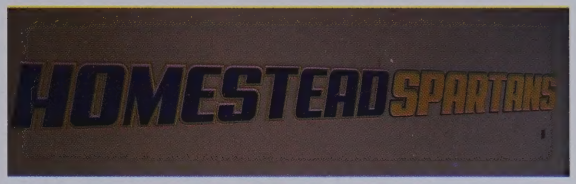
"If students want to design it, they should just get creative, and whatever they come up with, bring to Mr.



Ginder (principal) or myself," Braman said.

This year, the Student Government is even hoping to work with the Digital Design class, taught by Dominick Manco, to encourage students interested in design and photography to add their work to the walls-- an incredibly exciting opportunity for students to leave a lasting impression at homestead.

Of course, with how durable and long lasting these decorations are, the cost was not cheap; money, however, was not an issue in this case, as the Student Government and the administration have been saving for this for years, and so the Student Government had sufficient funding for the decorations from money collected over the past few years to fund this project.



Blue and yellow, which have been Spartan colors since the school was founded, may seem garish, as they aren't exactly complementary colors, but spartan heads and blue and yellow decorations are not the only ones serving to brighten up the school.

The photographs themselves, however, may be a problem; photos are usually easy to date, and the decorations are intended to last for years and years. Photos without faces, however, are much harder to date, and their timelessness will allow students years from now to relate to these photographs and feel the spartan spirit which Ginder and the Student Government hope to display.

"It is difficult (to find pictures without faces, but) ... we do want it to be our students, and for it to be obvious that it's our kids, but we don't want to it to be a specific picture of Mr. Hill or [an identifiable student] in the sophomore class, it just needs to be known or obvious that it's our kids," Ginder said.

These decorations are, at their core, made in an effort to support and applaud the student body; they allow students to memorialize themselves on the walls, much like the exceptional students and athletes of the past were memorialized in the hallway from door four to the IMC.

In fact, the only reason that there have been no pictures added to these walls since 2010 is that there were so many students that deserved to be added that there was no more room on the walls. This is what the new empty trophy case in that hallway is for; in the future, Ginder will be working with Joe Updegrove, athletic director, to fill it with touch screens loaded with student pictures.

DESIGNED BY KAYLEE YANOVICH

All Out, All Season

After a productive summer of training, both the boys and girls cross country teams' hard work is paying off

Lisa Chen
Writer

Life After Law

THE BOYS TEAM began their season with a win at their first invitational in Warsaw. "The team performed really well; all the seniors came together and the runners stuck together," Peyton Ratliff (11) said. This is the boys' team's first win in five years.

"[The win] is a good example of what's to come" Reed Burton (10) stated.

Although the boys are young, their talent is immense. "They're loaded with potential," Coach Wilson said. Even with the loss of state runner-up Brayden Law, the team is looking forward to a very successful season. "We don't necessarily have that low scoring, front runner, but we're a much tighter pack and we're coming in a hurry and that's really the big key to team success."

Law was named the 2015-2016 Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year by the News Sentinel, and earned several other awards. The loss of Law should be significant. However, the boys have proven that the loss will not affect them. "[The season] will be great," Burton said. All the teams Law ran on did not win a meet, but the current team already has one team victory at Warsaw.

Even with the win, the boys have higher goals for the season. "Our team goal is to get to the state qualifiers, if not state," Burton added. To reach this goal, the boys have been training harder than before. "We're doing more miles a week than we've done in the past years," Wilson said, "We're really trying to build on that strength."

Homestead is led by top runner Ryan Ruppert (10).

"It feels like my hard work has paid off," Ruppert said about being the fastest runner.

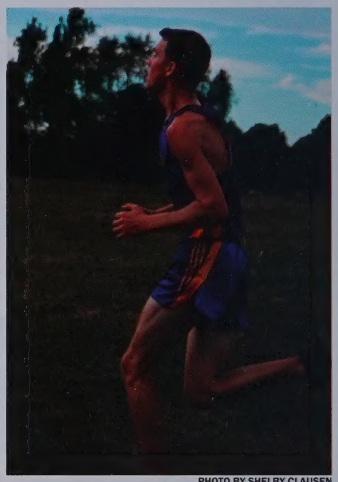


PHOTO BY SHELBY CLAUSEN

Reed Burton (10) competes at the Huntington North Invitational August 20.

THE GIRLS TEAM started off their first invitational at Huntington North with a huge first place win against rival, Carroll. "I think it lights a fire under us," Coach Wyss said. "It feels good to have that first win under our belts."

After last year's ninth place finish at state, the team is still looking to improve. "Our team goal is to go to state and be one of the top teams," Izabella Henschen (10) said.

One of the ways to achieve this goal starts with summer running. "Summer running helps tremendously because that is leading up to the season," Henschen added. Beginning in June, the girls ran at least four miles or 30 minutes every day. At team practices the girls ran hill workouts and were expected to hit certain paces at certain times.

"Summer running helped build endurance and speed. It also prevents injury later on in the season," Grace McGuire (10) said.

Coach Wyss emphasized this. "A lot of improvement has come from the summer months. The summer work lays the ground for everything we do in the fall. If you don't run any miles during the summer, you're not going to see any improvement in the fall."

Some of the girls ran over 300 miles during the summer.

"Summer running is very important in order to be successful during the season," Abby Smith (10) added, "it inspired me to work hard and kept me accountable."

The hard work the girls dedicated to running in the summer has clearly paid off as they are ranked 3rd in the state and beat #2 Penn at the Marion Invitational.

"[We] work hard as a team to push each other. Our strong team bonding reflects in how well we run at meets each week," McGuire said.

PHOTO BY SHELBY CLAUSEN

Sydney Ruppert (9) runs at the Huntington North Invitational. The varsity team placed first at the event.

PHOTO BY SHELBY CLAUSEN

Evie Bultemeier (12), Saige Noris (11), and Leah Metzger (11) push each other to finish the Huntington North race.

KAYLEE YANOVICH

Sports/Online Editor

Playing their roles

PHOTO BY KAYLEE YANOVICH

David Heiney (10) goes up for a serve against Canterbury High School.

PHOTO BY KAYLEE YANOVICH

Jordan Andrews (12) and Bryant Zitlaw (12) in the midst of a match against Canterbury.

The boys tennis team has been anticipating this season and now it is nearing the end for many players. The team dynamics of tennis are different than most sports. While top players like David Heiney (10) and Jordan Andrews (12) have been playing in each of the matches this season, there are many other team members who don't get the top billing.

What about everyone else? There are many other guys on the team but they may never get to see any varsity playing time, no matter how long they've been on the team.

For many sports, a student's grade level and experience typically determines what team he or she makes. However for tennis, this has no correlation. The team one makes is based almost exclusively on who can play the better game. Teammates will go head to head in a match competition just to see who gets the varsity spot. A great example of this is Heiney, who played on varsity his freshman year.

"My parents played tennis, so when I was little they brought me out there and I started playing," Heiney said. "I really liked it."

Then there is the opposite end of the spectrum, in which multiple seniors are on jv such as Brenden Warnick (12).

"It all depends on skill," Warnick said. He explains that the only way to make the varsity team is to play better than another person and beat them in practice. "It would be stupid if David (Heiney) wasn't on varsity."

It may also be frustrating to team members that the amount of time spent playing the sport does not always mean a player will suddenly become good enough to beat the current vasity players. So many of the players know they will always remain on jv and accept that as their role in the tennis program.

The dedication to the sport from all players seems to be helping them succeed. They are currently ranked eight in the state. "We have a lot more depth this year and I feel like we're all mentally stronger than we were last year," Andrews said.

Early this season the team competed in the North Central Invitational as well as the Carroll Invitational, scoring sixth place at North Central and second at Carroll.

Sectional play begins next week which means those players not on the varsity roster will be wrapping up their season and cheering on just those few varsity players still competing. Fans are encouraged to go support all the tennis team, even the ones not on the court at match time.

PHOTO BY KAYLEE YANOVICH

CANCER PATIENTS PROVIDE INSPIRATION

BY: LAUREN BERTA

Writer

Camp Watcha Wanna Do is a camp "for pediatric cancer patients and their families, siblings and people who have suffered from cancer," Shriya Jain (12) said.

Student government plans the school dances and other events like homecoming and spirit week, but the responsibilities of the club go further than most realize.

A large part of student government is charity events, such as Pennies for Patients and the Red Cross Blood Drive.

Madison McConahay (12) and Shriya Jain (12) smile with camper

"A lot of the things that we tend to do are focused on our Homestead community. . . it was nice to spread," Jain said.

The trip was the idea of Luke Lael (11), who brought it to the attention of student government.

"I really wanted to bring in more charity. . . and it was between raising money for cystic fibrosis where we really wouldn't do anything except raise money, or (we) could go to this camp and we could donate money to it but then we could also volunteer," Lael said.

The idea was very popular with student government, getting a nearly unanimous vote in favor of taking the trip.

"Part of the reason we decided to go the camp route instead of raising money for cystic fibrosis was so that we could get a more hands on experience where we were able to see our outreach into the community rather than just raising money where we don't really see what happens with that money," Jaine said.

The trip involved helping prepare activities for the children at the camp. The volunteer's job was to set up a carnival themed night for the kids, which involved putting together stations and games for the unique camp program. One such memorable station involved several hours of filling water balloons.

"We had a water balloon shot and targets that were 50 yards out on a field, 100 yards, and 150, on this big sling shot," Lael said. "Every time a kid walked up to it, he left with a smile on his face. . . and it was just so great that the kids had those experiences. . . It was all a great experience for everyone to see what change we can really do."

This sentiment was repeated strongly in the members that went, who each expressed how much they enjoyed getting to spend time with the children there.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HOMESTEAD STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Madison McConahay (12), Will Milne (11), Jackie Williams (10), Luke Lael (10), and Delaney Lewis (11) stope and take a selfie

"[We] played team sports with them and helped them all get to know each other and it was fun because we got to know them a little bit too," Jain said.

Student government has gained new perspective and become closer after taking the trip, according to Jackie Williams (10).

"I think it was also a team building thing. We all walked away closer that day, and I think that was great for student government as a whole," said Lael.

Lael was not alone in feeling a deeper connection with other student government members.

"I think it was really nice to like help all the kids and then it was also nice bonding with everyone who went on the trip," Pamela Chen (11) said.

This trip has obviously had a deep impact on student government and might prove to be the impetus for more community service projects in the future.

"What we're really trying to focus on these coming years is really giving back to the community, and I think that's what we should be doing," Lael said.

The next big event for student government is a dance marathon with Riley Children's hospital this spring.

"If people are interested in helping with it, we're going to be having call out meetings again later," Jain said."It isn't just a student government planned event; we want it to be something that all the different clubs, a whole school wide event that everyone can feel like they've helped with, if they want to. We hope to coordinate. . . with Ball State," Jain said.

Student government will not be the only group getting donations; all of the students and staff of Homestead will be asked for help.

"[T]he whole school's going to be doing this, it's not just student government," Lael said.

The Happiest of Homestead

BY EMMA LEININGER
Writer

The Network promotes positivity both within Homestead & within the community

The Network is a group of students and teachers working together in a collective effort for positive change in our school, community, and beyond. The Network is designed to empower students in the areas of leadership, integrity, character development, compassion, diversity and service above self.

"The Network is a club that is trying to promote a positive focus within our community and within our school," Brandon Blumenhurst (12) said, "What we want to do is to make sure Homestead is being seen as a positive force of change and that that we are not only being involved in our school, but our community at large."

PHOTO BY SARAH BLADE

Amelia Bender, (12) beams as she reads her positive message from The Network

Although Blumenhurst did not start the Network, he has taken on a major leadership position as President of the club.

"The Network kind of died out in the sense that not many members were involved and not many people knew what the Network was," Blumenhurst said. "Then, about two years ago, I started getting involved when a friend of mine recommended the club to me, and I saw the potential that it had, and I really just wanted to revitalize the club into what I thought it could become."

Since the club was revived, the Network has been consistently gaining new members. Last year, only around five people reliably came to each meeting, but this year the club has increased its numbers to about 20 members per meeting, which is a huge difference.

"We have a much higher attendance rate this year, and just the general number of students that are really looking forward to making positive change in their community has really skyrocketed," Blumenhurst said.

While promoting overall positivity is the club's main goal, the club is also invested in some minor projects as well that will hopefully contribute to their long term goal.

"Our main goal is to promote positivity, but there are a lot of things within that focus that we're trying to achieve this year," Blumenhurst said. "One project we're working on right now is working with Vincent Village, a transitional homeless shelter here in Fort Wayne, that promotes self-sufficiency in people that are just down on their luck or were involved in a bad situation that left them with nothing."

The Network plans to take on on as many projects as possible in order to help the community and to establish their presence as a major club.

"We're just trying to keep a continued presence at Homestead and to continue spreading that positive force of change," Blumenhurst said.

While the Network was created in an effort to promote change and positivity within our community much like other clubs such as Key Club, it truly is a completely different outlet for students who wish to contribute to bettering their school and community.

"The Network is a much smaller, more focused group of individuals and therefore we're much more relationship-based within the club," Blumenhurst said. "Each time we meet we share one positive thing that has happened to us since the last time we saw each other in order to start each meeting with the focus that positivity is truly everywhere."

The Network meets every other Monday in Mrs. Jones' room, right next to door 1, and anyone is encouraged to stop by. The Network participates in projects such as Random Acts of Kindness in order to promote positivity around this school. Both faculty and students are welcomed to attend.

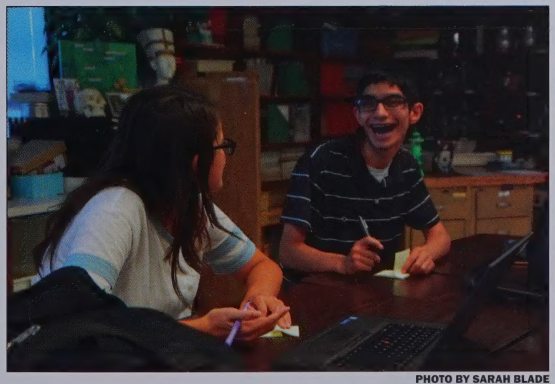


PHOTO BY SARAH BLADE

Members of the Network write encouraging notes to promote positivity

Pep Session Day Schedule

Period 1	7:45-8:23 (38 min)
Period 2	8:29-9:07 (38 min)
Period 3	9:13-9:51 (38 min)
Period 4	9:57-10:35 (38 min)
Period 5	10:41-12:22 (1 hour 41 min.)
Lunch A	10:35 – 11:02
Class	11:07 – 12:22
Class	10:41 – 11:02
Lunch B	11:02 – 11:29
Class	11:34 – 12:22
Class	10:41 – 11:29
Lunch C	11:29 – 11:56
Class	12:01 – 12:22
Class	10:41 – 11:56
Lunch D	11:56 – 12:22
Period 6	12:28-1:06 (38 min)
Period 7	1:12-1:50 (38 min)
Assembly (in gym)	2:00-2:35

SPARTANA
OCTOBER 2016
DISCOVER HALLOWEEN'S SPOOKIEST SUPERSTITIONS
LEARN ABOUT THE IMPACT THE ELECTION COULD HAVE ON YOU
PHOTO BY LAUREN BERTA

Table of Contents

4-5. Fall Play
Rumors to be held November 2, 3 and 4.

6-7. Mrs. Ham's Boutique
New clothing store off West Jefferson Blvd.

8-9. Sports Feature
Football and Girls' Golf.

10-11.Halloween
Spooky happenings around Fort Wayne.

12-13 Cancer Awareness Week
Matheis on her battle with breast cancer.

14-15. School Board Candidates
Information about those vying for a board position.

16-17. Left and Write
Students' opinions on the Presidential Election.

18. Interview With Cogdell
A Government teacher's thoughts on the election.

19. Writing Center
Information about the new writing resource available to students.

Spartana Staff

Editors-In-Chief
Michal Spanjer
Ethan Zweig

Copy Editor
Ethan Zweig

Photo Editor
Yana Weir

Online Editors
Alexis Jordan
Kaylee Yanovich

News Editor
Arika Akin

Opinion Editor
Emma Leininger

Life Editor
Emma Pearl

Social Media Manager
Emma Leininger

Writers
Lauren Berta
Lisa Chen
Winter Freeman

Adviser
Terri Nowak

Editorial Policy

The Spartana is a monthly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed. Southwest Allen County School corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be emailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Cookies

ARIKA AKIN

News Editor

These delicious, soft and autumnal cookies are the perfect treat for halloween! They can be made festive with food coloring or a colored glaze, and are quick and easy to make.

Makes 30 Cookies

Directions:

Preheat oven to 375 Degrees Fahrenheit

Melt butter in a microwave and then, in a large bowlcombine butter, sugar and pumpkin. Mix with a hand mixer until smooth. Add the egg and vanilla, then mix for around two minutes.

Using a whisk, beat together the cinnamon, ginger, all spice, nutmeg, baking powder, baking soda and salt in a small bowl. Once these ingredients are mixed completely, add them to the larger bowl of wet ingredients and mix well. Then, carefully, add flour to wet ingredients one cup at a time, mixing until smooth after every cup.

Add chocolate chips and mix with a large spoon until combined evenly.

Line a large baking sheet with aluminum foil. Drop tablespoon sized balls of dough onto the baking sheet, making sure to leave approximately two inches between dough.

Place cookies in the oven and bake for 12-14 minutes. The cookies, when done, will be soft but darker around the edges. Leave cookies on baking sheet for five minutes, and then place on plate or cooling rack to cool completely.

Ingredients:	½ Tablespoon Nutmeg
1 + ½ cups White Sugar	3 Teaspoons Baking Powder
1 Cup Pumpkin	¾ Teaspoons Baking Soda
½ cup butter (one stick)	½ Teaspoon Kosher Salt
½ Teaspoon vanilla	2 + ½ Cups All-Purpose Flour
1 egg	1 Cup Semisweet or Milk Chocolate Chips
½ Tablespoon Cinnamon	
½ Tablespoon Ginger	
½ Tablespoon Allspice	

Photos by Arika Akin

Any student interested in creating cartoons to be used in the Spartana print edition can contact thespartana@gmail.com with ideas or to show interest for the future.*

Students who have a desire to showcase their writing in the Spartana can email thespartana@gmail.com with story ideas, completed stories, poems or other forms of writing to be used in future editions of the newspaper.*

*Whether any submitted work is included with The Spartana material, online or in print, is decided by the staff.

RUMORS HAVE BEEN SPREADING ABOUT THIS YEAR'S FALL PLAY

ALEXIS JORDAN
Co Online Editor

Lights, Camera, Action! The fall play is underway as the fall seaon has begun. Every year around this time, Curtis Shaw, choir teacher, is busy with the students practicing and producing the show. The play this year is Rumors by Neil Simon, which was first published in 1988 and is one of Simon's most famous plays.

"It's all about different Rumors which are spread about different people," Shaw said. "It's a very high energy show. "

Unlike last year, the cast for Rumors is smaller, with only ten students cast. Among the cast is Kolin Davis (12),who is no newcomer to the stage. He has been cast in all of the school's production since his freshman year. Including this year's production, this will be Davis's fifth time working with Shaw. Having worked with Shaw for so many years, Kolin has gotten to know him very well and has been a great role model toward him.

"You know tortured geniuses? "Davis said. "He's like a tortured genius--but not quite genius, just slightly above average, but definitely tortured."

Despite the "torture" of working with Shaw, Davis has been able to learn a lot from him, which helps to improve in each performance. Davis has had lots of room to grow and become the best he can be. His interest in acting and TV is what pushed Davis to join theater.

"I always thought it would be a fun thing, to try acting," Davis said. "Also I was a loser… still am. Theater is a place for losers."

Theater is made up of a diverse group of students. Due to the small size this year, the cast has been able to become more of a close knit group.

"Our cast is pretty stellar, I had 62 kids audition for 10 parts so I was able to pick and choose," Shaw said. "I was looking for good group chemistry."

Among those casted, there are some newcomers to the theater scene. For Ameena Sohail (11), this will be her first production here under Shaw's direction.

"I've been auditioning every year and this is the first time I've made it," Sohail said."It's pretty cool. I've always liked theater."

Those with more experience in theater have been greatly influencing the newcomers and helping them grow as actors.

"They're really good role models and I can tell they have a lot of great experience," Sohail said.

PHOTO BY TRENTON CREMENS

As Kolin Davis rehearses his lines, Curtis Shaw is giving him tips as to how to enhance his performace.

The diversity of the students, each with a different level of theater experience, brings a unique style to the stage. With the charismatic and hard working students, the cast brings about great energy to their performance.

As the time before the play grows shorter, the students are all preparing for opening day by putting in a lot of practice in and out of school. Rumors will be peforming at 7:30 p.m. on November 3, 4, anf 5 in the schools auditorium. Tickets will also be available for purchase the week in advance.

As described by Davis and Sohail, Rumors is a "hilarious" and "mix-matched" play which makes it a big hit.

"With a really good cast this year, it is a probably the funniest production we've ever done and Mr.Shaw is going to make it great," Sohail said. "It is definitely one to come out and see."

PHOTO BY WINTER FREEMAN

Erin Mcbride and Amanda Chadwell sit during rehearsels as they go over their lines. They listen to who is speaking and are memorizing their own lines.

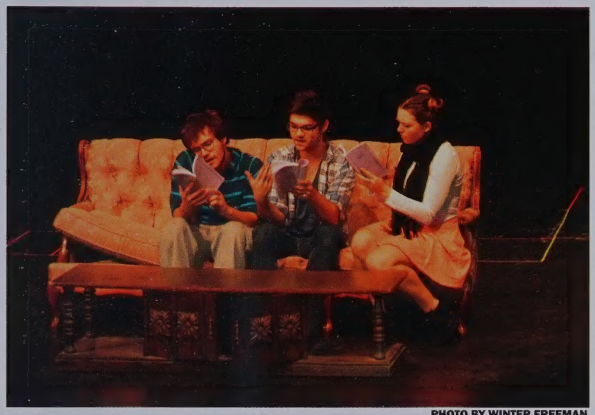


PHOTO BY WINTER FREEMAN

Kolin Davis, Daniel Meredith, and Amanda Chadwell run through the performance.

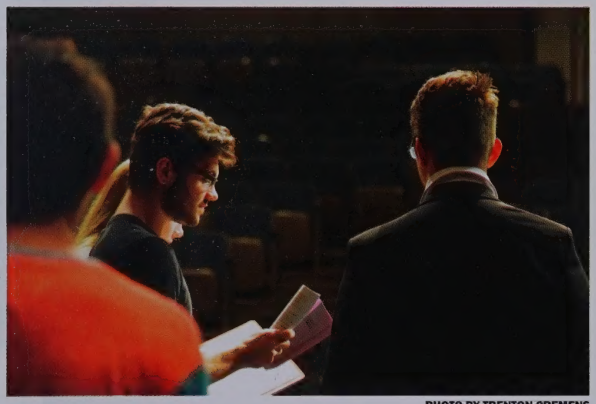


PHOTO BY TRENTON CREMENS

Kolin Davis, Daniel Meredith, and Amanda Chadwell run through the performance.

RUMORS :
A PLAY BY NEIL SIMON

CAST

DANIEL MEREDITH
KOLIN DAVIS
ATTICUS BENENTT
AMANDA CHADWELL
ERIN MCBRIDE
GAVIN RHINEHART
GWEN MIDDLETON
AMEENA SOHAIL
ANTHONY D'VIRGILO

STAGE CREW

TRENTON CREMEANS
MORGAN DISNEY
NATHAN MOEBERG

WHAT ITS ALL ABOUT

WRITTEN IN 1988, NIEL SIMONS RUMORS BECAME A TWO ACT FARCE PLAY WHICH EXPLORES A DINNER DISATSTER DUIRNG A MARRIED COUPLES ANNIVEERSARY. WITH AN OUTGOING CAST AND COMEDIC WRITING, RUMORS BECAME ONE OF SIMONS MOST POPULAR PLAYS.

URBAN SHE-K

PHOTO BY ALEXIS JORDAN

BY EMMA LEININGER

Social Media Manager and Opinion Editor

Tiffany Ham, Family and Consumer Science teacher, recently opened her own business. Urban She-k, the name of her shop, is a unique boutique that showcases exclusive styles of women's fashion. Ham and a family friend have always had a dream to run a storefront, but never acted on the desire until now.

"My close friend has actually always wanted to open a store," Ham said. "After talking about it and talking about it, her husband finally said, 'instead of talking about it, will you just do it?'"

That's exactly what they did. However, that was not Ham's only inspiration for opening a store. Her role as a family and consumer science teacher, as well as her leadership in Family Career Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) influenced her decision to become a businesswoman.

"I actually had the opportunity, during the summer, to go to FCCLA nationals in California," Ham said, "All of the participants who were there for fashion design really inspired me."

Although running a business can be grueling, Ham has the help of some special people in her life, particularly her daughter, who has become an employee at Urban She-k.

"I get to see the business side of it rather than just being a regular employee," Riley Mcpheters (10) said. "I've been able to give my input on a lot of aspects, and it's very exciting."

One of the best opportunities that Mcpheters has had since her mom has opened the store is the chance to see a more creative, outgoing side of Ham.

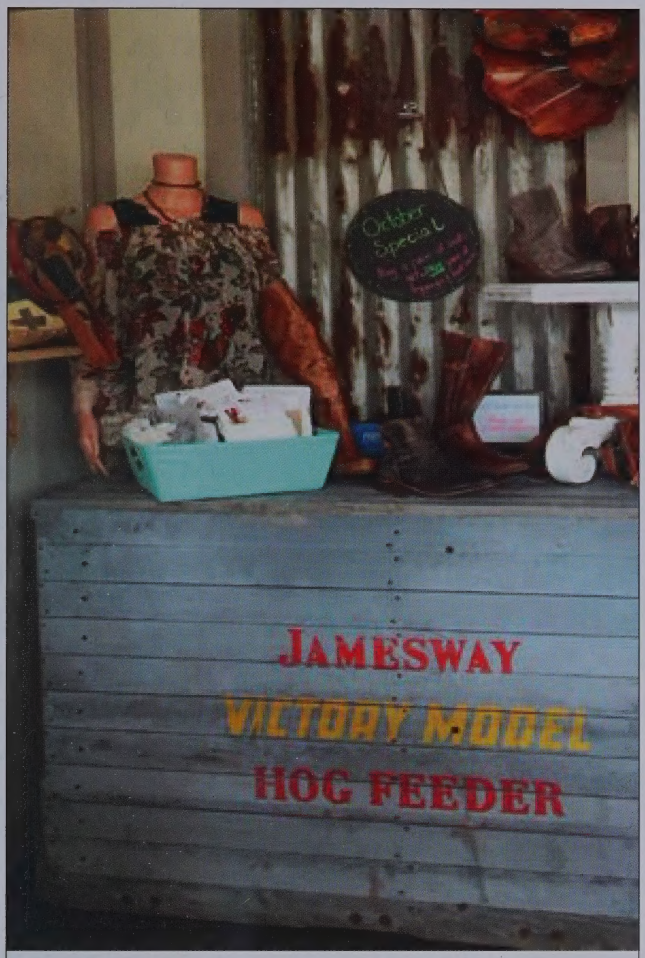
"She's been a lot busier, but I've gotten to see a really cool side of my mom," Mcpheters said. "She's a lot more creative and I can see her fulfilling her dreams."

While Ham has been trying to balance her time with school and Urban She-k, being a teacher has actually been great for business as many students wish to see what the boutique is all about.

"When I first went into the store, I thought everything was super cute and everyone there was just really welcoming," Peri Darmofal (11) said.

Darmofal is a regular customer now and was very impressed with the quality of the products sold at Urban She-k.

"Being a teacher is already such a hard job, and being a store owner on top of that must be an incredible amount of work, so I really admire how she can balance both," Darmofal said.



While managing her time has been tough, Ham seems to have everything under control. The store is closed on Sundays and Mondays so that she has time to get her school work done, and get ready for the week.

"I go to the store right after school daily and all day Saturday," Ham said, "While it's hard and I'm tired a lot, I love it,"

Along with time management, Ham has struggled with the fears and doubts of owning the business.

"I'm afraid every day, because I do not know if I will fail or succeed, but I also know, that I will not give into that fear," Ham said.

While these fears will most likely always be present, Ham has a great support group that is proud of the work she has accomplished.

"She (Ham) was stressed a lot in the process of opening the store, but she handled it very well and I'm really proud of her," Mcpheters said.

Despite these fears, Ham has already considered expanding the boutique.

"The storefront next to ours is vacant and if we ever have the necessity to make our business bigger, I figured why not?" Ham said.

While Ham has struggled with the stress and doubts of owning a business, she is handling it with ease. Her positive attitude has not wavered and she is loving every part of running the boutique.

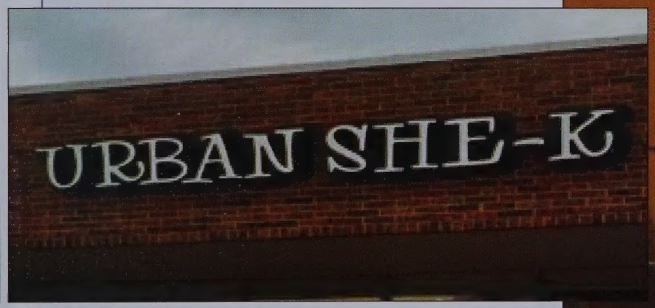


PHOTO BY LISA CHEN

Mrs. Ham works diligently with students in classroom setting

NEW TEAM, SAME DREAM

KAYLEE YANOVICH

Sports Editor and Co Online Editor

It is the first game of the season, and everything is set perfectly in place. The student section is loud and proud, the weather is great and all of the players are healthy... or are they? This all changes when quarterback Drew Keszei (12) takes an unexpected tackle and fractures his leg.

"The receivers had some really good blocks and I was going into the endzone," Keszei said. "I wasn't really expecting it. I got tackled and my ankle got messed up, but Jiya came in and finished that game strong."

Yes, the team is prepared. Jiya Wright (11), second string quarterback, steps up and takes his place, unaware that this will be his role for the rest of his junior year.

"He was the heart and soul of the team as our quarterback, and now that he's injured it's been a bit different," Wright said.

Keszei, while upset by this turn of events, has accepted it with stride and has taken on his new role on the team.

"Life is life and stuff like this happens," Keszei said. "You just gotta overcome it."

Wright, having never played such a position, was nervous about his new role on the team. However, he has adjusted well and is excited to see what else is thrown at him.

"I'd wanted it all my life but I wasn't sure if I was ready for it," Wright said. "It was difficult with all the new things I had to learn, but as the season went on it got a lot easier." He has proven this with ease, leading the team with a winning record, 5-2.

The encouragement his team has given him has also helped Wright take on his new position, as the guys are a very close knit group and identify themselves as a 'family' more often than not.

"He's been doing really well," Keszei said. "He's a great run threat. He hasn't had that many opportunities to throw the ball but I think he has the power to. In post-season he'll show it."

While Keszei is out for the remainder of the season, he does plan to play in college, at Ohio University next year.

But even with this setback, the team is continuously improving their game and their record.

"Our run game is better than it's ever been," Keszei said.

Also, besides the injury of Matt Anderson (12), who is now recovered, the team has stayed healthy through a majority of the season, allowing everything to run smoothly and efficiently.

"I've been coaching 18 years and I've never seen us be quite as dominant as we are this year," Shawn Harkness, coach, said.

PHOTO BY YANA WEIR

Jiya Wright (11) rushes down the field in hopes of a touchdown.

After a major setback in the beginning of the season, the boys adjusted well and have big plans for post-season

PHOTO BY YANA WEIR

The team gets ready for a play against Northside High School.

GIRLS GOLF TAKES ON STATE TOURNAMENT

Our girls have won six out of their seven tournaments in their regular season, setting them up for an outstanding post-season, which proved to be just as successful.

"At regionals we did much better than expected," Makenna Hostetler (11) said.

The state tournament was set up in a way that untimately gave the girls a great shot at success. If they did not play well one day, they had a second day to make up for it and reclaim their title.

The girls have stayed close together throughout their saeason due to the small number of people on their team.

"We all stayed in a big house which really helped with everyone's bonding," Hostetler said.

The team has not made it to state in seven years, and the journey was worth it.

"It was kind of like we were proving ourselves after not winning regionals," Emma Schroeder (11) said. "It was almost twice as good."

Placing 6th overall in the state tournament, the girls' hard work payed off and they ended the season with a bang.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DAWN RYBOLT

BOO!

LAUREN BERTA

Writer

Halloween, originally a Celtic celebration called Samhain, is a night filled with superstition, bringing out the irrational and the bizarre.

"Celts believed that on the night before the new year, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred," according to History.com.

The bonfires and costumes were part of the process of warding off the dead spirits that came back to Earth. This early festival has evolved to All Hallows' Eve on October 31, a child-friendly community event known for plenty of candy. However, the belief the veil between life and death weakens on this night has persisted through the ages, which lends to general spookiness around the time of the holiday. These macabre impressions can range anywhere from a fear of numbers, lunar cycles, and even things as inherently frightening as clowns.

Locker number is not something most people think about. Many students cannot remember what their locker number is. Not so for the owner of locker 666, whose number plate has been missing since it was assigned to her.

"It's a normal locker but it just feels different," Reagan Roller (10) said. "When I was ten, I went with my family to my brother's baseball game at Don Ayres Little League park. When we got there someone had spray painted 666 and pentagrams on the dugout. I didn't understand then what those symbols meant and I thought, oh, pretty star. Now as a sophomore in high school, I finally understand what it means and now I am reminded of that incident four years ago."

The fear of the "number of the beast" comes from an interpretation of the Bible that claims this number is Satanic. This obviously is still true today; the number on Reagan's locker is missing, taken off by a superstitious soul.

Something even more ominous than these devilish numbers is the suspicious activity during a full moon.

"A full moon guarantees a noticeable difference in behavior, there's not the calmness that you usually feel at night and people get more confused," a registered nurse said.

One nurse, who wishes to remain anonymous, tells of an experience she had on the night of a lunar eclipse.

"The IV machine made a screaming noise, but the battery was dead," the nurse said. "I couldn't shut the machine off. I hit the button, it was unplugged, and the battery was dead, but it would not stop screaming. We ended up locking the machine up in the dirty utility closet. There was this screaming in the background for the entire night, and I don't know how we ever got it to stop."

Clowns haunts are the latest phenomena to come to the community. According to the WANE TV News website, there have been clown sightings in two Fort Wayne neighborhoods. One victim in these incidents claimed that the clown tried to grab her arm and had a knife.

The issue has also reached the notice of the Fort Wayne school system. Four Northwest Allen County schools were placed on lockdown earlier this month after administrators became aware of social media posts that claimed clowns would be visiting Carroll Middle School.

"This has honestly come too far. I'm done with the whole clown situation. It's not funny anymore," Hannah Burns (10) said.

A few students participated in this clowning around activity. Mitch Warren (12) and friends decided to scare some students in the Environmental Center before the Homecoming pregame tailgate party.

"That Friday night a couple buddies of mine all got together and found ourselves with nothing to do, and still plenty of time before the seniors get together for the pregame tailgate. With the current epidemic of clowns arising among our community we decided to search around the house for any type of clown masks. The sole reason for doing it was to take pictures rather 'creepy' pictures and then let the internet take over. Pretty much I put the mask on and we headed towards the Environmental Center to snap the shots. As halftime hit during the football game we could hear fellow Spartan students talking about "a clown in the EC". This created much laughter among the senior painters and myself, as we all knew who was behind it and there was no harm to be done. It blew up on Twitter with a tweet that included two pictures of myself in the mask; about 40 retweets and over 80 likes," Warren said.

PHOTO BY YANA WEIR

THE FIGHT OF HER LIFE

BY KELLY ASIALA

Writer

"I would have never dreamed I would have had cancer," Ann Matheis said.

On June 17, 2016 Matheis, discipline assistant, was diagnosed with breast cancer. Although Matheis was about to take on the biggest battle of her life, she was not afraid to put up a fight.

"I've never had to fight like this," Matheis said. "And so I have to fight, and I have to stay strong. Not just emotionally. I have to stay physically strong too."

But Matheis has not been going through this alone. Even though all of her children but one are not living in Fort Wayne, they are still supporting her by keeping in close contact. Matheis' daughter Allison Meyers, math teacher, has been able to support her mom every day through their close proximity at Homestead, and through the bracelets she made. Meyers and her husband worked to make the pink bracelets for breast cancer awareness through the school, in which the proceeds help Matheis and her husband with the treatment process.

Matheis and her family have already raised over $3,000 for the American Cancer Society and are still raising more. Pink bracelets that say "Team Matheis" and "Jesus > Cancer" are available for purchase for $3 in Meyers's classroom in the freshman academy.

"There were a few reasons that my husband and I wanted to sell the wristbands for my mom," Meyers said. "The main one was our family and my husband have been through a lot of tough stuff in the past couple years, and we just kind of wanted to have a reminder. Our faith has been everything so, we wanted a reminder just for us and others that it doesn't matter what you're going through, [the] challenges you face, that God is bigger."

Matheis' family are not the only people helping her through this process. Homestead staff members have brought Matheis and her husband dinners to help in even the smallest ways possible. Sarah Jones, art teacher, took on a bigger project to help Matheis have a "feel good" atmosphere while in the building.

"One day Mrs. Jones organized a day of joy where students and staff came and decorated the discipline office," Matheis said. "I'm still really enjoying that."

In addition to her family and staff, Matheis has received an abundance of support from her softball family. Katherine Lael (12) and Allison Barley, Homestead alum, put together a team to walk for Matheis at the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Awareness walk at Parkview Field. Lael and Barley invited both past and present members of the softball team to walk with their families in support of Matheis.

Matheis has never taken life for granted. She is living her days to the fullest, and is full of optimism for the future. She finds ways to express herself everyday through her head scarves, which add an additional pop of color to all of her outfits.

"I've gotten some as gifts [and] I've had to purchase some online," Matheis said. "Really somebody should have a boutique for chemo patients in Fort Wayne."

Matheis may be facing the biggest battle of her life, but she is not taking anything for granted. From headscarves to wristbands, Matheis always finds a way to smile through the day.

PHOTO BY COURTESY OF LINDSAY LACKLAND

Wear pink tomorow, October 28th, to show support for Breast Cancer Awareness as part of Cancer Awareness Week!
Matheis bracelets are available for purchase in Mrs. Meyer's classroom, room 919, for $3.

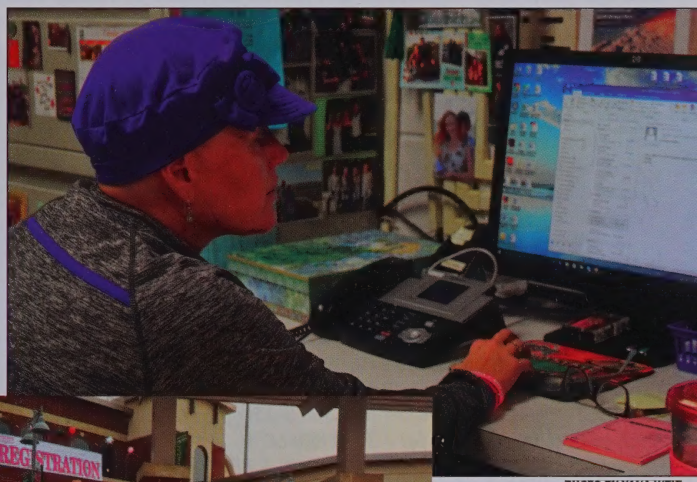
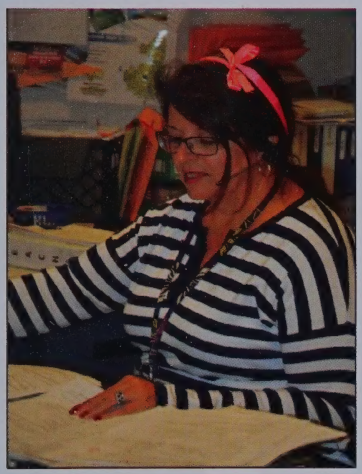


PHOTO BY YANA WEIR

Ann Matheis, sporting one of her many Homestead sprited hats, works in the Dean's Office.



Sylvia Redden, receptionist, shows support for Breast Cancer Awareness by wearing pink in her hair.

Homestead students walk in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk to show support for the cause and Mrs. Matheis.

Bradley Mills

ETHAN ZWEIG
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Education:
B.S., Electrical Engineering, Engineering, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, 1988
M.B.A., Finance and Marketing, Indiana University, Kelley School of Business, 1992
Occupation:
Project and contract analyst at Parkview Health System
Family that has graduated from or currently attends SACS:
Bradley Mills: Homestead, 2011
Mallory Mills: Homestead, 2013
Meghan Mills: currently attending Woodside
Matthew Mills: currently attending Woodside

Why are you running for a position on the school board?

In short, I want to give back to the school system and community that has done such a wonderful job educating my children.

Before our first child entered kindergarten 18 years ago, my wife and I purposely chose SACS for our children's education. We sold our home near Cincinnati and moved to Aboite Township because we wanted to be in an excellent school system and close to family. SACS excellence in education exceeded our expectations. I am now at a time in my life where I have the time and talents to help this school system continue to provide an excellent education to all who enter its doors.

What are your goals for the district if elected to the school board?

I want to use my financial skills to help SACS make better use of the limited financial resources available to it. Any resources that I can free up will be used to provide an even better education to our students. These resources will be used to hire more teachers, provide more hands on learning opportunities, and provide more and better tools for the teachers and students. Better utilization of resources will continue to make SACS a school selected by parents in a world with increasing options for school choice.

What can the district do to further the integration of technology into the curriculum?

Technology is an important aspect to preparing "Today's Learners for Tomorrow's Opportunities" as our SACS mission indicates. However, we must continue to be cautious and prudent in our implementation of new technology. Technology must continue to be used to enhance, but not replace the basic fundamentals of quality education.

I believe that our teachers and administrators keep themselves informed about the technologies available to do the best job of educating our students. I will follow their lead to determine what new technologies to implement into the curriculum. I will then use my contract and finance skills to ensure that we implement these ideas in the most cost effective manner.

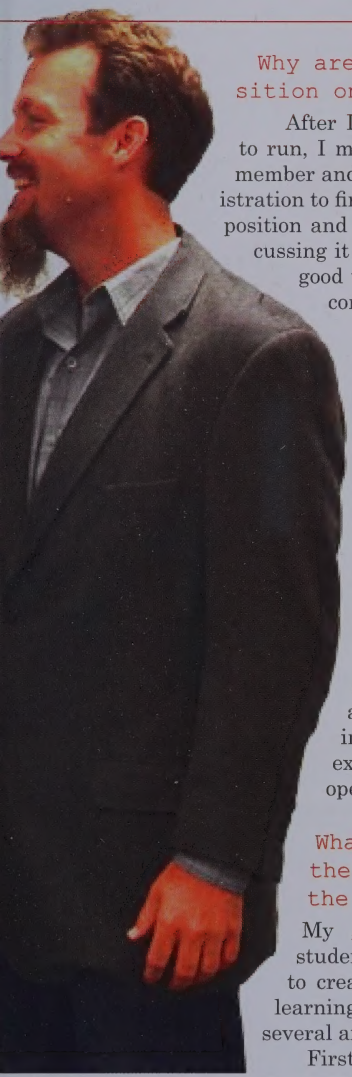
A live debate between the two candidates will take place at Woodside Middle School in the cafeteria on November 2, at 7:00 p.m.

Abraham Schwab

Education:
B.A., Philosophy, Concentration: History; Minor, English, Drake University, 1998
M.A., Applied Ethics, Loyola University Chicago, 2001
Ph.D., Philosophy (defended with distinction), Loyola University Chicago, 2006

Occupation:
Associate Professor at IPFW

Family that has graduated from or currently attends SACS:
Liz Schwab (spouse): Homestead, 1994
Daniel: currently attending Woodside
Katelyn: currently attending Aboite



Why are you running for a position on the school board?

After I was asked by a family friend to run, I met with a current SACS Board member and a member of the SACS administration to find out about the demands of the position and needs of the system. After discussing it with family, this seemed like a good way for me to contribute to the community.

As the parent of one middle school student, one elementary student and a two-year old, I have a vested interest in the direction SACS is headed.

As an Associate Professor at IPFW, I would bring to the Board both the perspective of an educator and the perspective of someone who sees what kinds of skills help students succeed at the college-level.

As Chair of the Allen County Ethics Commission and member of the Board of Aging and In-Home Services, I have important board experience and experience in public service and open door meetings.

What are your goals for the district if elected to the school board?

My guiding principle: to support students and teachers as they work to create, maintain and improve the learning environment. This includes several areas of emphasis.

First, continued and expanded support for personalized learning plans. As anyone can tell you, we learn best when we learn about material we are already interested in.

Second, collaborative communication. For the system to provide the education students deserve and to provide teachers the support they need, communication (with teachers, with parents, with students) about what's working and what's not is required.

Third, independent judgment. From judgments about contractors for infrastructure to judgments about policy changes, it's important for the judgment to be as free as possible from conflicts of interest. This is one reason that I'm running a moneyless campaign. I talk about the other reasons on my campaign Facebook page (@abeschwabsacs) and on the school board section of my website (www.abeschwab.com/schoolboard)

What can the district do to further the integration of technology into the curriculum?

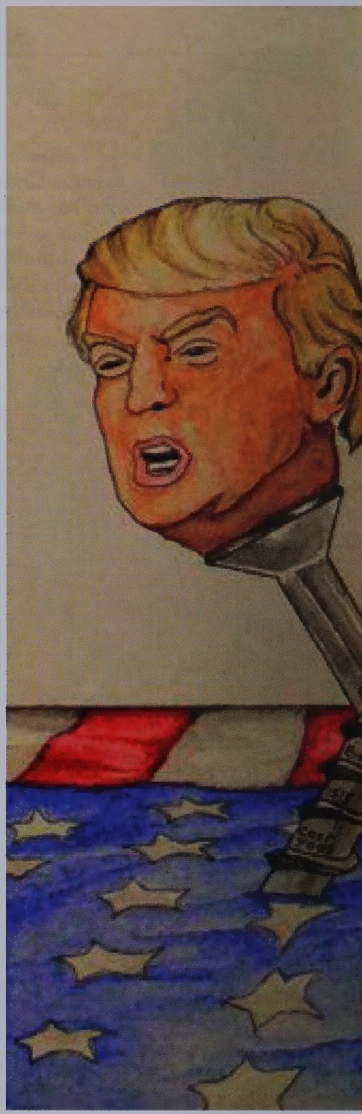
If elected, I would support teachers and administrators as they work to integrate technology into their curricula. Two caveats. First, I would be hesitant to mandate such integrations. One of the keys to a successful learning environment is the freedom of teachers and administrators to employ strategies (whether new technologies, new partnerships, or new content) that they believe will work to achieve our learning goals.

Second, I would be attentive to the limits of integrating technology. As useful as technology can be, the abilities to think critically and to discuss ideas face to face with clarity and respect are at least as important. Most of the students in my classes at IPFW have no difficulty navigating the basic uses of technology, but some have difficulty with the clear articulation of their own perspective and the ability to critically think about their own perspective and the perspectives of others.

CLINTON

MICHAL SPANJER

Co-Editor-in-Chief



For a large number of voters the battle between left and right works in tangent with the struggle between hope and fear.

Hillary Clinton believes in using strength from the country's past experiences to carry a flame of hope into its future instead of allowing fear to override her judgement. She fights for justice instead of a distorted image of greatness. The difference between the candidates is evident in their slogans, if nothing else. Clinton encourages the country to bind together in order to improve while Donald Trump claims he can restore America to the sweet land of liberty and oppression that the founding fathers established.

Clinton is inarguably the most qualified candidate because she has witnessed firsthand the hardships of presidency and the dealings of international affairs. She has already established relationships with other world leaders, from serving as Secretary of State. As former Senator of New York, she has experience compromising with members of both political parties. To contrast Clinton's diplomatic experience and usage of civil discourse, voters should keep in mind Trump's insistent "wrong" every time Clinton made a strong case against him during the first debate, and envision this inability to compromise as he discusses major international issues in the situation room for the next four years, should he be elected.

In the first presidential and vice presidential debates, Trump and Mike Pence discussed feeling offended by Clinton's "insult driven campaign" of commercials featuring unedited statements Trump made. However, Trump built his campaign upon the shock value of labelling minorities and promoting segregation in an effort to instill a false sense of security, a similar tactic and campaign style to that of Hitler in 1932.

This election will change the women's rights movement, as it will either progress with the election of the first female president, or revert back a few decades to a society in which calling women pigs and inferior was the norm. Most Americans believe that this type of sexist behavior has faded; however, the public's accusations against Clinton prove otherwise. Opponents of Clinton constantly cite the infamous email scandal as an example of her untrustworthiness, a mistake they blew far out of proportion. Some voters define Clinton as "the lesser of two evils," but while Trump refuses to apologize for offensive declarations against minorities, Clinton's opponents continue to interrogate her and blame her for crimes she never committed, according to theatlantic.com.

Clinton strives for opportunities for American youth, promoting the idea that each citizen should be entitled to success in the field they pursue, provided they put in the effort required to attain the necessary skills. She looks at the presidency as another opportunity to serve her community, which she has expressed a passion for since high school. She has dedicated her life to improving the lives of women and children, and hopes to take her work a step further as the next Commander in Chief. Unlike her opponent, Clinton is humble enough to learn from others, such as citizens she encounters while campaigning who explain to her how she could benefit their lives.

VS TRUMP

EVAN CASTLE

Guest Writer

Lydia Bushur, graduate, posted this political cartoon featuring Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton as screws. Set between the ridges of each of their screws are scandals, flaws, and complaints about each of their respective campaigns.

CARTOON COURTESY OF LYDIA BUSHUR

Safety. Prosperity. Conservatism. These three words encapsulate a Presidential candidate that continues to redefine modern American politics. The 2016 Presidential Election encompasses American citizens casting their ballots to select the leader of the free world; however, the stakes of this election foster an unfamiliar aroma of revolution--of greater importance and the potential to influence the United States economy, judicial system and political structure for decades.

The threats facing the United States--involving national security, social justice, criminal activity, fiscal law, education and the protection of the Bill of Rights that our Founders established in the 18th century--are far too substantial to ignore in the 2016 race to the White House. This is why we must elect Donald J. Trump

Before all else, Trump is a natural businessman. He knows the ins-and-outs of insolvency, debt, taxes and the prospects of economic growth and prosperity. As the only candidate who has created tens of thousands of jobs around the nation, Trump has experience directly interacting with middle-class workers and promoting a stronger economy in the midst of failing Obamanomics. In fact, those that support and respect Trump most in his own backyard in New York are the taxi drivers and construction workers--everyday, hard-working Americans. A central idea of Trump's economic policy includes creating more jobs for American citizens and combating the growing prevalence of cost-effective outsourcing and failing industries under Democrat policy. In his own words, Trump will "Reform the tax code and trade policies to make it easier to hire, invest, build, grow, produce and manufacture in America." Yes, this means terminating unfair trade with China, building a border wall that will benefit both Mexico and the U.S, and reversing the harmful effects of the globalism mentality that have corrupted American economics over the past eight years. Trump has seen the gradual declination of the American identity and economy relative to the world around us, and he has every intention of strengthening America to be the economic and military world power that it used to be.

Trump recognizes the concept that radical Islamic terrorists cannot continue to be let into the country freely. Although the Hillary Clinton camp accuses Trump of racism, his plan to combat terrorism through extreme vetting lacks any sign of racial discrimination. All immigrants coming from countries with proven ISIS-ties will be vetted to ensure that known terrorists and high-threat radicals stay out of the United States.

Against all odds, Trump won the Republican Presidential Nomination. He fought against the mainstream media and the establishment, remaining true to his values and never straying from his positions. Now, he will fight against the corrupt Democratic establishment and liberal media to win the votes of hard-working Americans. Trump has a temperament that will fight for us, the American people, and not back down to foreign threats. He has drawn record-breaking crowds to his rallies, marking a rare political movement that happens once in two lifetimes. Trump is with us, the American people, and I am with him.

Politics

ACCORDING TO COGDELL

SPARTANA: At this point in time, who do you see winning the election?

COGDELL: I would say on this Friday, October 7, 2016 that Hillary Clinton would be the odds on favorite. The polls seem to indicate that she's slightly ahead and she's ahead in some key states that she would need to be to pull out the win. However, we still have two presidential debates left and over four weeks to go, so things can change.

SPARTANA: If Hillary does win, how do you believe she will change American policies over the next four years?

COGDELL: I think the odds are overwhelming that if she does win we'll face more divided government in America and so as far as actual policy or legislation that she gets pushed through, I don't think we're going to see dramatic change in American policy. The parties seem to be very divided on economic issues and ideologically seem to be very different, so I don't believe we're going to see a lot of change regardless of who is elected.

SPARTANA: In the debates left to come, do you believe Trump and Clinton will focus more on criticizing each other's policies or providing insight on their own?

COGDELL: I believe there will be a mixture of both. I think that they will talk about their own policies and their agenda for America, but there also will be a lot of critiquing the other side, perhaps stating differences and even perhaps more personal arguments that we've seen.

SPARTANA: As Clinton is ahead in the polls what do you believe Trump's campaign is lacking that is disenabling him from taking that lead?

COGDELL: The democrats have won the popular vote in what is it 4 out of the last 5 presidential elections and I think right now while the 2 parties are roughly equally divided I think the way the electorate is comprised, the demographics of it, the democrats have a little bit of an advantage, and they have had that for a while. I honestly don't know if it's a question of shortcomings of this candidate or that candidate as much as it's just the way that the electorate is. The changing face of America has altered politics I think.

SPARTANA: Do you believe that having a democratic president for the last 2 terms has influenced Clinton's popularity?

COGDELL: There have definitely been studies that have suggested that the president's approval rating can definitely impact the member of that party that is running to succeed them. The higher the president's approval rating, the more likely that would be to benefit Hillary Clinton and there has been a report that Obama's approval rating has been very high lately. That is certainly not hurting Clinton.

SPARTANA: Although Trump has a
lack of political experience, he does have experience in the world of business, do you believe this has influence the way people are currently leaning?

COGDELL: I think it really is a question of who might be less unpopular than the other candidate. I think Trump's business background does speak to a lot of people in America. I think there's a lot of people that are feeling that the system is not working, and that the traditional politicians have led to division and bad public policies. There's a lot of people that think that his business background is actually a plus for him, because he's going to do things differently than in the past. I think that there are others that look at not having a traditional political background as being a negative, but I think that it's mixed politically.

— Emma Leininger

WRITE LIKE YOU'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME

LISA CHEN

Writer

Each semester, students write thousands of essays for their English classes. Although instruction from teachers is received, assistance from outside of regular English classroom resources may prove more constructive. To solve this problem and give students a chance to work with others accomplished in writing, the IMC Writing Center was created as a place where writers can receive help with their essays.

"We've all been there where we've struggled with writing," Nicole Detter, librarian, said.

This is where the writing center comes in to assist.

Writing centers can "help anyone from trying to figure out the assignment to brainstorming ideas to polishing [the essay]," Detter said.

Many colleges have writing centers to edit and guide essays.

"I think it's a very important tool," Detter said. "In order to get Homestead students used to that idea and prepared for college, we thought it would be a great idea to open a writing center here, so that students could have a good experience before they went to college."

Those who need help at the IMC Writing Center are assisted by Detter or the writing consultants.

"You get one-on-one tutoring," Lauren Hedrick (12), one of the writing consultants, said. The writing consultants "personally go over your writing with you so it's very focused."

All writers can benefit from the writing center as consultants are able to support through various stages of an essay.

"At the writing center we help students talk through their essay to improve organization and ideas," Hayli Stephens (12), another writing consultant, said. "We help students who are at different levels in their writing. Students can come in before they have even rewritten a piece in order to receive help starting their essay, or come in for help revising their essay."

Overall, the writing center can support the whole essay procedure.

"The writing center is focused on the writing process and will help you self revise," Hedrick added.

If students are unsure about a piece or just want another set of eyes, the writing center is the perfect place for them.

"We all feel like we're not good writers. Having someone to work through the process with and feel like you're on the right track is an important thing to do" Detter said.

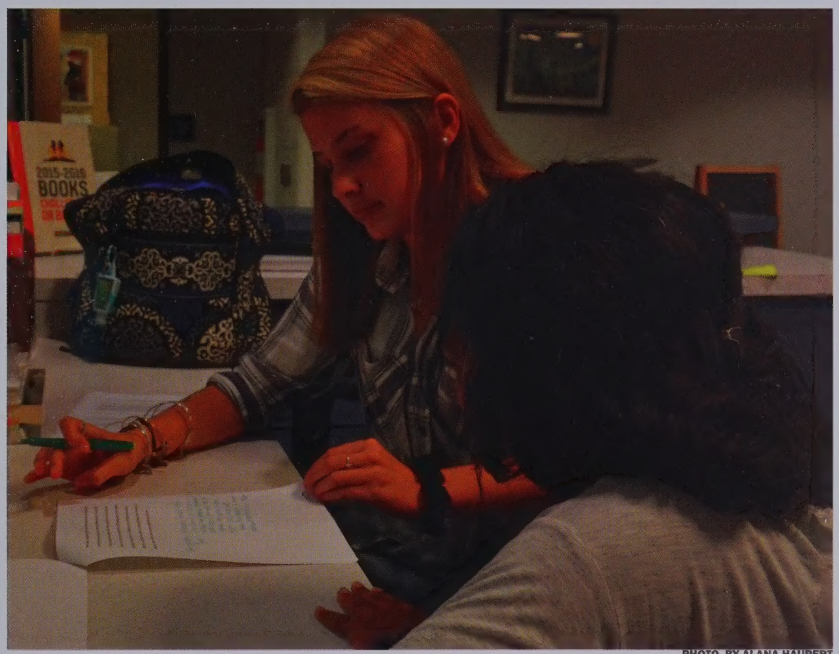


PHOTO BY ALANA HAUPERT

Stacey Tanzler (12), a mentor for the IMC's Writing Center, sits with fellow student in order to work out problems she may bee havinging in her essay.

The writing center is currently staffed during periods 2, 3 and 4. Those who desire advice should email Detter at ndetter@sacs.k12.in.us to make an appointment. If these periods will not work, students can talk to Detter about an appointment before or after school.

"The writing center aims to help students improve not only on a specific piece of writing, but all of their future writing," Stephens said.

spartana

december 2016

3: Semi Formal Dance
4-5: College applications
6-7: Radio Show
8-9: No Shave November
10-11: Project vs. Finals
12-13: Election Aftermath
14-17: Biggest of 2016
18-19: Band
20-21: Pet Adoption
22-23: Holidays
24-25: Wrestling
26: Fantasy Football
27: Hockey

Spartana Staff

Editors-In-Chief
Michal Spanjer
Ethan Zweig

Online Editors
Lexi Jordan
Kaylee Yanovich

News Editor
Arika Akin

Opinion Editor
Emma Leininger

Life Editor
Emma Pearl

Writers
Lauren Berta
Lisa Chen

Adviser
Terri Nowak

Editorial Policy

The Spartana is a monthly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed. Southwest Allen County School corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be emailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

Ready to dance the night away?

The annual semi formal will take place on Saturday.

BY ALEXIS JORDAN

Co-Online Editor

Students get ready for a night full of dancing, music, and snow! Semi formal is on Dec.17th.. The sophomores of student government have been hard at work at planning and organizing this year's dancewith the help of Alyssa Braman, school counselor. After plenty of brainstorming they have come up with a theme they believe will catch everyone's attention.

"Our title is Once Upon a Winter, which is going to be pretty classy, Karly Wolfcale(10) said. We started off with Once Upon a Time, but then we realized a lot of people may not like that... it might be too girly, so we added Once Upon a Winter.

What some people may not understand is all the hardwork which goes into preparing for the dance. It takes a large group of students who are dedicated to making sure semi formal is a great night for everyone. They must all compromise on a theme which would not be too hard to decorate and that all students would like. Then they do some research online of different ideas to incorporate into their theme. Then they meet with a representative from A Party Apart who brings her own ideas to help collaborate and come up with final decisions.

" I love working with A Party Apart, Braman said. I've developed a pretty good relationship with them."

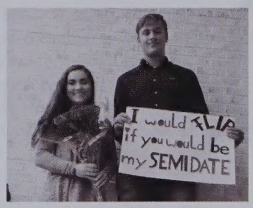
The representative makes a quote for the students exact cost of decor in order for the team to make cuts and pick and choose what will for best for the budget. The students are also the ones who design the ticket and help sell them.When the day of the dance finally arrives, the students will come in and help decorate the cafeteria to get ready for that night.

This year, the students want to make the theme unique from all the others and top the previous themes.

"We might be adding a little bit of a snowy surprise and we just really want to get a lot of people there and emphasize the decorations while keeping it simple," Wolfcale said.

There is hope for a great turnout this year and for all the students to enjoy their night. The tickets are $17 dollars and will also be available the day of semi.

"It is going to be really magical," Braman said.



Julian Rodocker (10) Jonathan Fraizer(10) pose with their semi proposals.

Fabian Schneider (11) asks Sarah Ewing(10) to semi formal. This will be Schneiders first semi formal in America.
Courtesy of Sarah Ewing

DESIGNED BY ALEXIS JORDAN

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAL SPANJER

ADMISSION ANXIETY

MICHAL SPANJER

Co-Editor-in-Chief

"It'll look good on a college application."

Teachers, parents and counselors can persuade a high school student to partake in just about any activity with those seven little words. Sometimes they seem to forget there is more to life than reaching for the next level, especially when it comes to applying for college.

The fact that people give an application the power to haunt every high school student for four years is absurd. One application should not determine every step a student takes. Students should feel free to challenge themselves for the purpose of gaining experience and knowledge, not to impress an admissions officer. Students should take AP classes, push themselves and commit to extracurricular activities because they want to learn more about themselves and the world around them, not for extra credential to add to an application. High school should be about discovering passions and delving into new subjects, not suffering through an AP class solely because a student is convinced it is the only path to his or her top choice college.

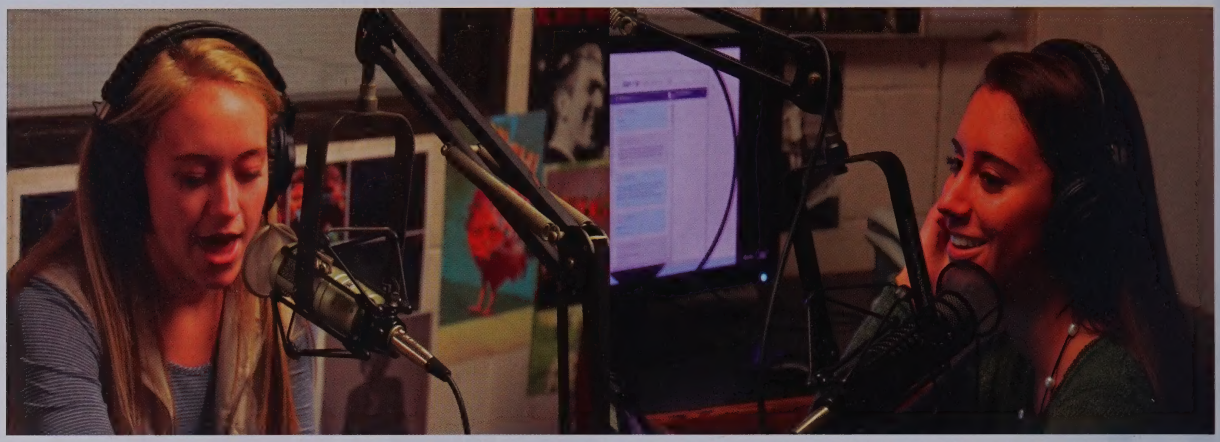
According to Huffington Post, in a study of 1018 teenagers in 2013, high school students ranked their stress level at an average of 5.8 on a 10 point scale, on which 3.9 was the limit of a healthy stress level. The teenagers' average was almost an entire point higher than the average ranking of 1950 adults surveyed. Students ranked school as the top stressor in their lives because of increased competition to get into prestigious colleges.

Students struggling with the stress of balancing multiple AP classes and time-consuming extracurricular activities promise that once they graduate, their "real" lives will begin. They fail to realize that 18 years is far too much time to spend waiting and planning for some grand, extraordinary future.

High school introduces students to social situations and academic challenges to help them form the skills they will need to carry with them throughout life. Pushing them to focus on rigorous schoolwork that consumes their lives may restrain them from developing necessary social skills. Instead of pushing every student to follow the same steps toward college, adults should encourage each individual students to sign up for classes and activities that speak to that student's interests and challenge him or her in a healthy way.

Allowing each student to embark on his or her own journey to success will benefit society as encourages those students to fill a variety of jobs pertaining to their own interests, rather than strictly Science Technology Education Math (STEM) careers. Pushing students into activities just to look good on an application ignites a cycle of unhappiness that students carry with them into the workforce.

These four years are not just about preparation. These four years are not just a list of credentials for a college application. These are the years to pull a prank with friends or sign up for a scuba diving elective. Challenge yourself, enjoy yourself, discover yourself but do not kill yourself over a college application.



Charlotte Hagedorn (10) and Jessica Walter (10) talk during their radio show, It's Whatever Dude.

MAKING A POINT

BY LISA CHEN

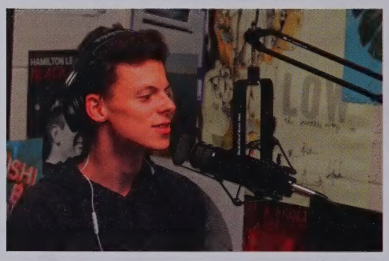
Writer

Although many know that the school has its own radio station, few know details about it. Currently Andy Dunn, teacher, runs the radio station, the Point 91 FM. The station features after school radio groups who have their own show. Each group has a one-hour time slot between 2:45-4:45 p.m.

In previous years, those who had their own radio show were in the radio class. However, this year, a number of students who have their own show are not in the radio class.

"I chose to take TV rather than radio but still really enjoyed some aspects of the radio side," Jessica Walter (10) said. "An after school radio show gave me the opportunity that radio students have in class."

Similarly, those wanting to learn more about radio could have the circumstances to do so with an after school show.



"Jessica approached me with the idea of doing a radio show together with Ellie (Davis (10)) and I thought the idea was great because I love talking and have always been interested in radio," Charlotte Hagedorn (10) said.

Through after school radio shows, new experiences for those not in the class are made.

"Kids that can't take our class can get an opportunity to learn about being on the air," Dunn said.

Having their own radio show has also allowed further opportunities for those who are in the radio class but want more air time.

"I decided to start my show because I've been in the radio program but due to the amount of people in the class, you don't get to be put on air very often," Chase King (10) said. "With an after school show I was able to get better on the air and get more comfortable being independent on the station."

Though each group has their own reason for starting their show, some did so simply because of their like for talking.

"(The radio show) was definitely something I wanted to do," Nick Phelps (11) said. "It's a lot of fun, it's a really cool subject and I get to blab my nonsense in front of thousands of people."

Additionally, the flexibility of radio allows a variety of topics to be discussed.

"Our show is called 'It's Whatever Dude'," Walter said. "We try to talk about things that listeners could relate to and enjoy. It's hard to fit it all into five-minute break when it feels like you're just having a conversation with both the people in the show and the listeners."

Radio show hosts can also talk and focus on a specific subject.

"Jack (Persinger (10)) and I review music, whether it be artists, albums in particular or even genres overall," King said. "We try to cover the content of the music while having fun with the show and making it interesting for the audience."

Even though there are a variety of topics between the groups, having their own radio show is beneficial to all.

"Overall, the show allows me to get more experience talking on air in a more comfortable environment," King said. "It sets me up if I wanted to pursue a job on a different station when I leave or during my time at Homestead."

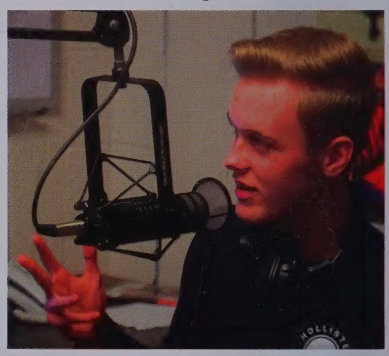
The atmosphere and features of the program produce an enjoyable time for hosts and listeners alike.

"The best aspect about the show is the ability to communicate to a big audience while being live," Hagedorn said. "I think it's super cool to hear our voices in the headphones just like I've heard so many other radio show hosts do the same."

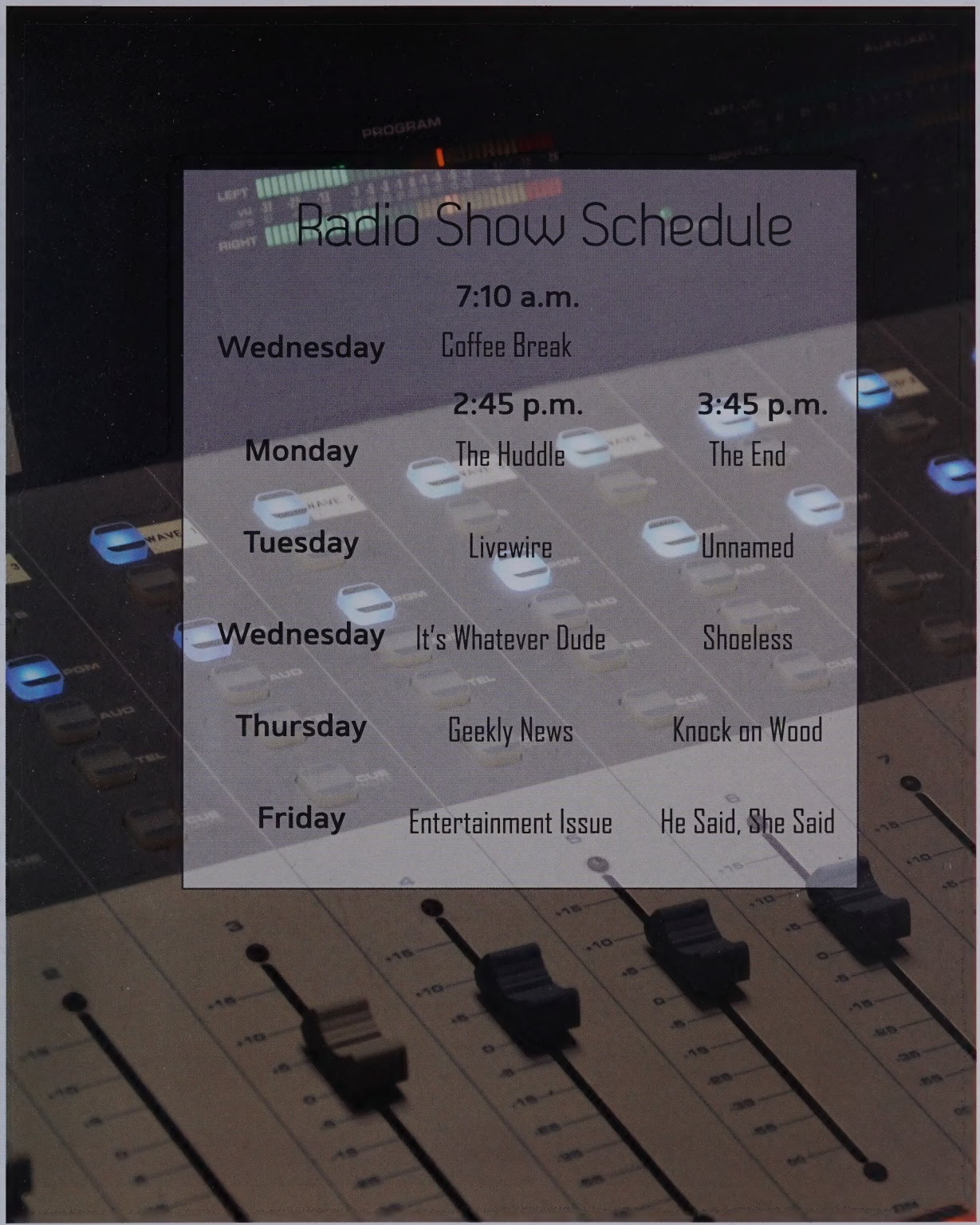
Essentially, the radio shows allow students to learn and expand in a different setting.

"It's an experience that you can have that you can't get anywhere else," Dunn said.

Tune in to the Point 91 FM on 91.1 after school to listen to your peers talk about their favorite topics.



Chase King (left) (10) and Jack Persinger (10) broadcast their show, Livewire. "It's definitely a special thing to be able to enjoy music with other people and I think that's really what's at the core of our show: sharing what we love with others," Persinger said.



Radio Show Schedule

	7:10 a.m.	2:45 p.m.	3:45 p.m.
Wednesday	Coffee Break		
Monday		The Huddle	The End
Tuesday		Livewire	Unnamed
Wednesday		It's Whatever Dude	Shoeless
Thursday		Geekly News	Knock on Wood
Friday		Entertainment Issue	He Said, She Said

DESIGNED BY LISA CHEN

PHOTOS BY LISA CHEN

No Shave November

REPORT

SPARTANA ISSUE 4 DECEMBER 2016

#LetitGrow

BY EMMA LEININGER

Opinion Editor

No Shave November, while typically a humorous phrase used as an excuse to go dishevelled for a few weeks, has now taken on a new meaning at Homestead. Male teachers and students let their beards grow in order to raise money for the Riley Children's Hospital while offering interesting incentives to their students in an effort to acquire the most money for the cause.

Throughout November, teachers kept a red bucket in their rooms that gave students an opportunity to donate to the Riley Children's Fund. As students donated, the teachers continued to let their facial hair grow. Initially, the fundraiser was not notable, students only throwing a dollar or some spare change into teachers' buckets if they were lucky enough to have some money on them that day. However, as the month progressed, teachers began to give students incentives in an attempt to raise more cash for a good cause.

One such teacher was Joshua Salway, engineering teacher.

"My senior class wanted to know how much money they would have to raise to shave my eyebrows with my beard, so that generated about two to three hundred dollars," Salway said.

Although Salway gave his students motivation to contribute to his bucket, he said his class was naturally competitive and extremely responsive to the fundraiser, donating to the bucket on their own.

Park Ginder, principle, also gave incentive to students to contribute to his bucket. If a certain amount of money was raised each week, he would continue to grow out his beard, as well as the hair on top of his typically bald head. Ginder maintained his promise throughout the month of November and had a significant amount of hair growing on his usually shiny crown.

Austin Render (12) motivated students by saying that whoever donated the most money into his bucket would be able to host the Sports Corner, his segment on HHS In Depth.

"I've had a lot of students pass me in the hallway and say they will donate," Render said. "I'm at 61 dollars right now. My goal is 100, so I'm hoping by the end of the month I'll raise some more. I think the freshmen are really interested in the idea."

On top of teachers' personal encouragement, a general reinforcement to donate was that the teachers and administrators would shave strange shapes of designs out of their beards at the end of the month.

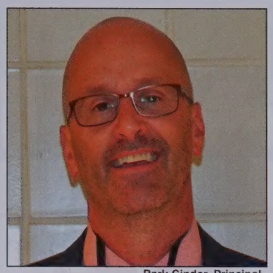
"The first place winner gets to shave my eyebrows, the second place bidder gets to shave my beard, and whoever comes in third gets to shave a wacky design in my hair," Salway said.

The fundraiser exploded into a massive competition among students, teachers and even schools. Throughout the hallways, posters advertising #FTK (For the Kids) promoted a competition with rival Carroll High School. These posters were placed on walls in order to endorse a race to win the most money for Riley Children's Hospital.

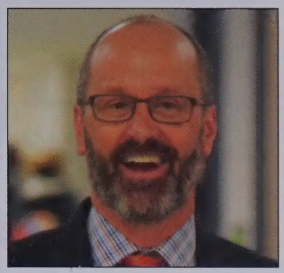
"While the posters in the hallway did initially peak some curiosity from students, I think it has been mainly the incentive from the teachers that has caused the students to participate," Ginder said. "I don't think anyone has payed attention to the competition with Carroll.".

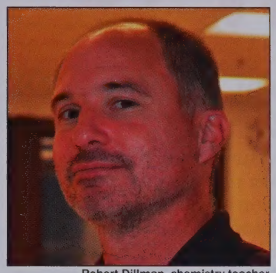
Although most did not believe this friendly competition with Carroll contributed to the involvement of students, teacher incentives skyrocketed donations. Raising nearly a thousand dollars each, teachers such as Salway and Curtis Shaw, performing arts teacher, took first and second place in the race to win the most money.

While incentives and facial hair took the spotlight during the month of November, teachers and administrators were extremely proud of students for getting involved and showing such great dedication to an incredible cause.



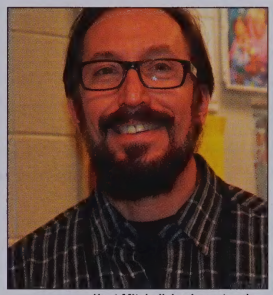
Park Ginder, Principal
Total Raised: $200.44



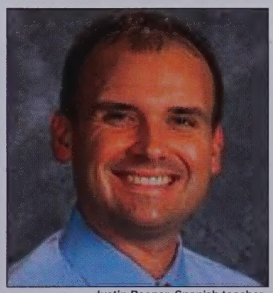


Robert Dillman, chemistry teacher
Total Raised: $263.25

Before and After ...



Kent Mitchell, business teacher
Total Raised: $9.00



Justin Peeper, Spanish teacher
Total Raised: $79.00

Reexamining the Exam

EMMA PEARL

Life Editor

It's official: December is upon us. The time for running away from all long-term assignments and shoving the thoughts of finals into the recesses of our minds are well behind us now. After all, all we have now is a weekend before the anticipation for winter break is completely overshadowed by the ritual ending of semester one.

For many students, finals are nothing new. After going through the wringer a few times, students get used to the idea of some huge cumulative assessment. However, getting used to our system should not mean that we do not examine it.

The intent of this article is not to whine or to "stick it to the man." Rather, it is only meant to offer an alternative that will probably never happen. In that sense, it is entirely useless, but "it needs to be said" and some people feel a cathartic release when giving a structured argument, while others would potentially be validated in their previously formed opinions. So.

While the idea of a final is completely precedented and is theoretically the logical close to a course, in the context of personal experience, it feels as though a final is only given so that a semester's worth of work will count for something.

Other than the fact that this seems completely gratuitous, perhaps we should break down finals themselves, in terms of grades. Teachers have been preaching every semester that if one have applied oneself well enough in the class, the final will not affect one's grade. The weight of the final, they say, is insignificant compared to that of the work for the class.

Based on firsthand experience, this is accurate. After a certain point, without extensive amounts of extra credit, it would be impossible to raise the grade. Yet, with even a 90% on the exam the grade has the potential to drop. Why should a student who has consistently done well in class, a student who has proven their aptitude in a subject, even have an opportunity to lower a grade they have worked hard for? One might be tempted to tell the student to just do as well on a final as they have in class, but surely one would realize this is easier said than done. Is a 90% not a decent grade?

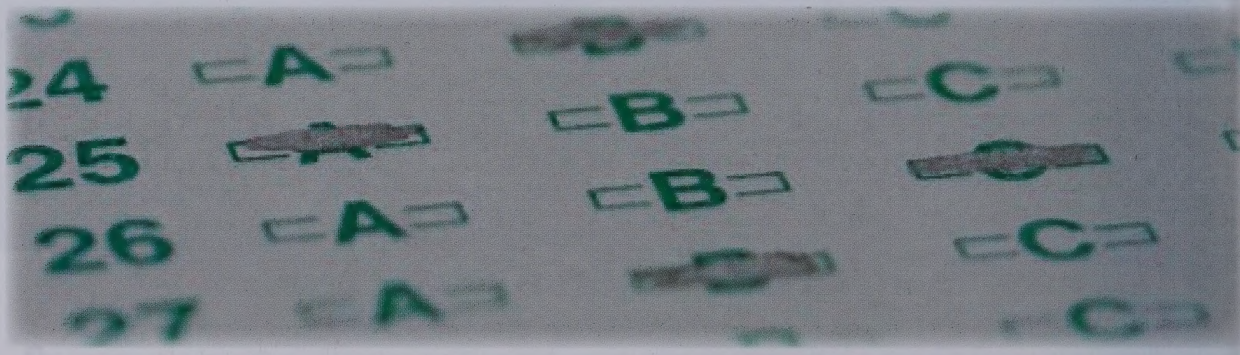
It is not necessarily uncommon for schools to give students the opportunity to opt out of a final, given that their grade meets a certain percentage requirement. Perhaps the school should consider incorporating such a policy and begin to reward students who exceed expectations.

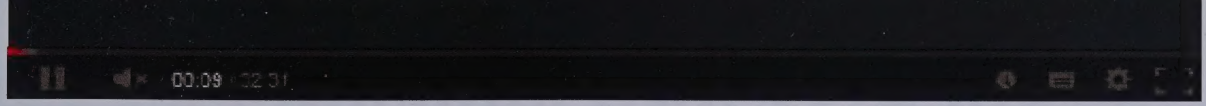
This focus on students in the higher percentile is not to say that the current system is not flawed for students who may work their hardest without getting the marks to prove it. It is still difficult for any student to shift their grade up (and a lowering of the grade almost insults the previous effort), yet an unreasonable amount of stress is devoted to final season and a test that truly should not be awarded so much significance.

What about projects?

To many students, a project in the stead of an ultra-long test feels like a blessing sent from whatever deity watches over the chaos of their academic lives. Teachers typically do not grade a final project as harshly as they might grade an actual exam, as multiple choice answers do not lie. A project standing in can reduce the stress of Finals Week™ but does have the adverse effect of adding to the storm in the weeks before as every teacher crams in last-minute lessons and details and the student must now work to finish a weighty project.

Ultimately, there does not seem to be a great system to turn to in order to make finals any easier on the students, no way to make them any more fun, no way to assess without stress--at least any way that the school system has come up with yet. Maybe it is unreasonable to ask for something new, but it cannot be unreasonable to ask for a reexamination and a consideration of the opinion of students. Clearly, a distaste for finals does not come from a place of laziness, but a real issue with the way things are run. Arguments are not made in hate, but in pleading.





IF YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW HOW TO ARGUE ONLINE

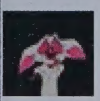
TheSpartana 15 minutes ago

Subscribe

Show more

All Comments (1)

Share your thoughts



Emma Pearl 30 seconds ago

I'm running the risk of sounding like your belligerent grandfather cursing this generation or a middle-aged writer for an online news source ironically hiding with their opinions behind a screen, but we live in the era of technology and social media. Do not worry, though. I will not take the extra step to condemn it. Rather, I think it is amazing people are so involved in things that extend so far beyond their daily lives. With the internet, you are making connections, learning and absorbing, and you have the world at your fingertips. Not that I am judging you if you are using your resources to watch videos of teeny animals doing weird things. Live life--do you.

The point is, technology and social media are pretty incredible, but be warned. With the advent of this awesome outlet, you might run into some issues--namely, arguments. We have all likely been in a position where we have either read or participated in one of these bad boys, and we have all--if you are anything like me, a very opinionated person with very little self-control--started at least a few stories with, "So, I got into this internet argument last night." Sometimes the density of others is simply too tempting, but if you are going to take part in the fun, you should learn how to do it right.

First order of business, get all the facts. Let's say you see a YouTube comment that really just grinds your gears. Before you angrily slap the keys with a vigor unseen since the mothers at last year's Vera Bradley sale, take the time to read the entire thread of conversation. If you are not willing to take the time to read and to see every aspect of this person's point of view or to check if your opinion has already been voiced, then do not bother putting in the effort to write the comment. Disclaimer: reading the entire thread could potentially have the adverse effect of just vexing you even more.

Lesson two: be mature. Do your very best adult impression and be sure to think out your argument beforehand so you do not sound disrespectful, petty and childish. This will ensure you are not the aggressor and will make you simply look like a concerned citizen. Being mature also includes avoiding insults. Your perhaps very valid points would then be reduced to nothing as your opponent will look at you only as your emotions. Not to say that emotions and a passion for your argument is not important, but your goal should be to teach and to convince, not to condemn.

To tie into this, there are some other word tricks. While sounding mature, elevate your vocabulary slightly--but not too much. Find the happy medium between text or tweet and the two a.m. essay you churned out for AP Literature in which you used every multisyllabic word you could think of. If you go with the former, the enemy will take neither you or your argument seriously. However, if you go with the latter, you chance being the obnoxious person who uses words merely because you do not think anyone else will know what they mean. Further, avoid thinking and speaking in terms of "right" and "wrong." In most cases, right and wrong do not exist and there is only a difference of opinion.

Now, for my final tip: avoid being ~problematic~. I actually hate using this word. It embarrasses me because I feel as though it has lost all meaning and has simply become the label for someone who accidentally said something mildly offensive once. Because, you know, no one makes mistakes. Anyway, my point is, you cannot go around offending everyone you meet. Trying to "spark a discussion" or "get people talking" and just posting inflammatory comments like it's your job will get you literally nowhere. Others will be annoyed. You will be annoyed. It will be an endless cycle of making fools of yourselves.

Obviously, there are more ways to master the art of winning an argument, but this sort of thing all comes down to a science. Chances are, even the most perfectly executed argument will yield nothing if your partner is not working with you. There is nothing to be done about getting yourself into a duel with the most dense person on the internet except closing out of the app and chucking your phone across the room. Like I said, though, if you are like me and cannot seem to restrain yourself (and really want to keep your phone intact), these tips might help a little bit. I wish you the best of luck on this frustrating journey.

HYPOCRISY AND VIGILANCE
IN THE ELECTION'S AFTERMATH

BY ETHAN ZWEIG

Co-Editor-in-Chief

When I volunteered to write this story, the only words written for it on our idea board were "Election Aftermath." This was back at the end of October, when Hillary Clinton still had a seemingly insurmountable lead in polls. Talk among my peers focused on Donald Trump's rigged-election claims and the possibility that his supporters would form a militia to reclaim the country. I fully expected to write this story telling Trump supporters to get over the loss and move on with their lives.

And, now that the tables have turned, I have to force myself to follow my own advice. Jeez, this is hard.

The first step is to empathize with the Trump side. I understand their issue with Clinton. She was in politics so long she had a legacy, which scares off many people who believe the elites of Washington, D.C. have abandoned the middle class. She seemed to offer no change to the system, nor much hope of stronger global ties, nor the "Yes, we can" enthusiasm that got President Obama elected. Even during the primary, while Bernie Sanders led a revolution for the extreme left, promising immediate and absolute solutions to complicated problems, Clinton's message focused on the realistic improbability of the situations, and ran as the reliable candidate. Her campaign for all two years was riddled with scandals, slip-ups and mistakes, calling Trump supporters "deplorable," failing to resolve the email scandal and overall not being relatable to voters.

But then we wake up in Trump's America. Although I admire his confidence in his abilities to solve every problem facing the country, there remain two issues rising from the past few weeks of the President-elect.

First, his campaign ran on distrust and fear, threatening to deport all 11 million illegal immigrants, to ban Muslims from entering the country and to nuke our enemies, regardless of environmental or diplomatic consequences. His lowest moments include insulting a disabled journalist, the release of an Access Hollywood video from 2005 where he claimed he could assault women due to his fame, promises to sue every news outlet that's negative towards him, losses at every general election debate, and that time back last Feruary in a debate where he assured the public that there is "no problem" with the size of his genitalia (in case you were wondering). So already, if anyone fits into a minority group, whether it's race, religion, sexuality or gender, he feels incredibly unsafe in this new administration, having been given only reasons to be afraid. As a result, protests have filled many cities across the country, with anxious participants chanting "Not my president!" and "We reject the president-elect."

Second, Trump's biggest promise in the final weeks of the election was to "drain the swamp," rooting out corruption in the government and getting new outsiders elected rather than the same people who've been in office for decades. Instead, Trump has only been stirring around the gnat swarms, with many in the running for his cabinet positions being lobbyists, billionaires and congress members for years; among the list are Reince Preibus, head of the Republican National Committee, Newt Gingrich, who was first elected in the 1970s, Rudy Guliani, mayor of New York City and Chris Christie, current New Jersey governor. And, amidst reports of major reversals on issues like Obamacare and pulling out of NATO, even if Trump is only picking experienced advisors now for a long-term swamp drain, he'd leave the place a shell of its former glory and efficiency; Trump can drain the swamp, but he still has to deport the wildlife, establish blockades to keep out invasive species, dig up the foundation upon which it was based and fight against the storm that desperately wants the swamp to remain before he can bulldoze the land and build a gold-plated White House on it.

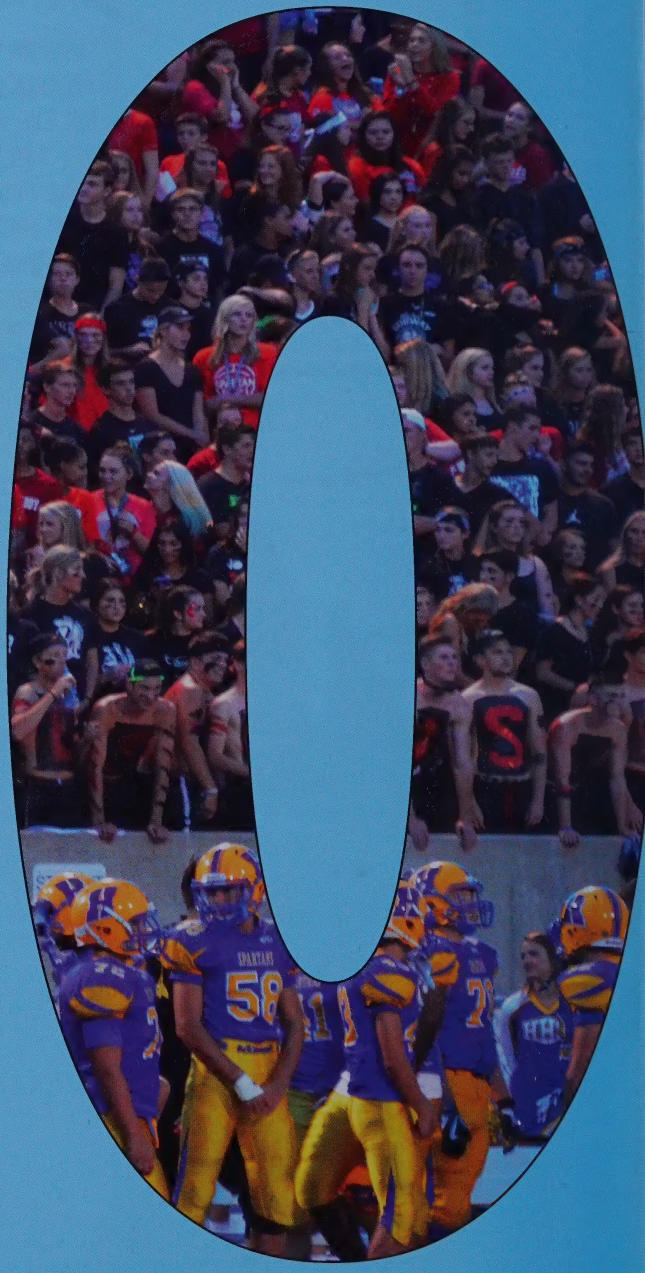
Although I want to move on with my life following the election, I live in constant fear of what may happen to the country following Inauguration Day. Either Trump will do everything he promised in his campaign, which threatens the safety of the general public, or he won't do anything he said, which means we have no clue what's going to happen, and that uncertainty scares me to no end. We can give the "President Trump" a chance to lead, but we need to stand our ground for our beliefs and rights; people were prepared to fight in case of a Clinton presidency, and we should remain just as vigilant now.

"I THINK THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION REALLY REFLECT THE THOUGHTS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THAT WE'RE READY FOR A CHANGE."
-JESSE MAJORS (10)

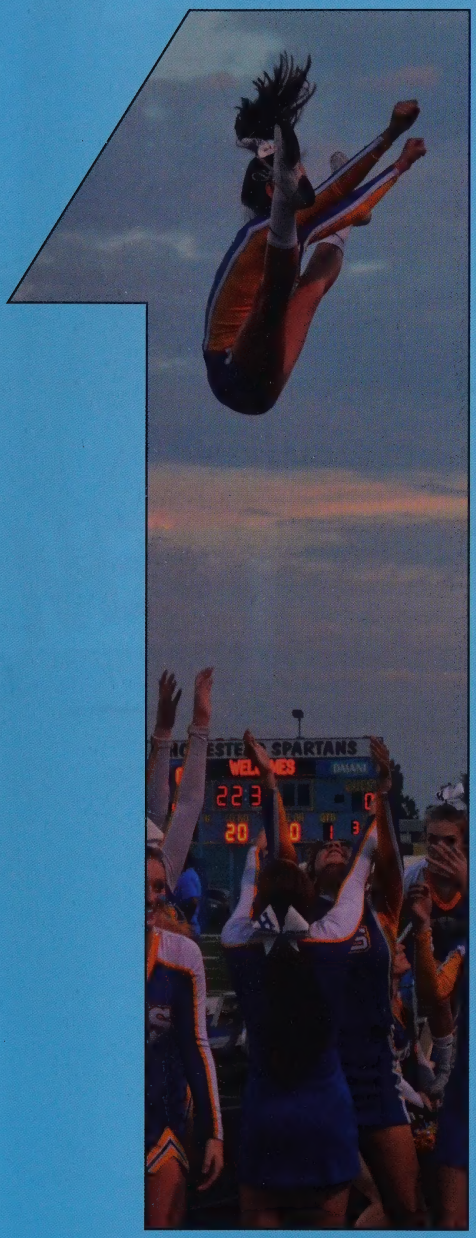
"I THINK THIS ELECTION REALLY POLARIZED US AS A NATION, BUT I BELIEVE THAT, WHEN YOU'RE ANGRY AND ENRAGED BUT YOU CAN STILL PRODUCE AN INTELLECTUAL AND THOROUGHLY THOUGHT-OUT RESPONSE, THEN YOU SHOW YOUR TRUE COLORS."
-PANASHE CHAKABVA (11)

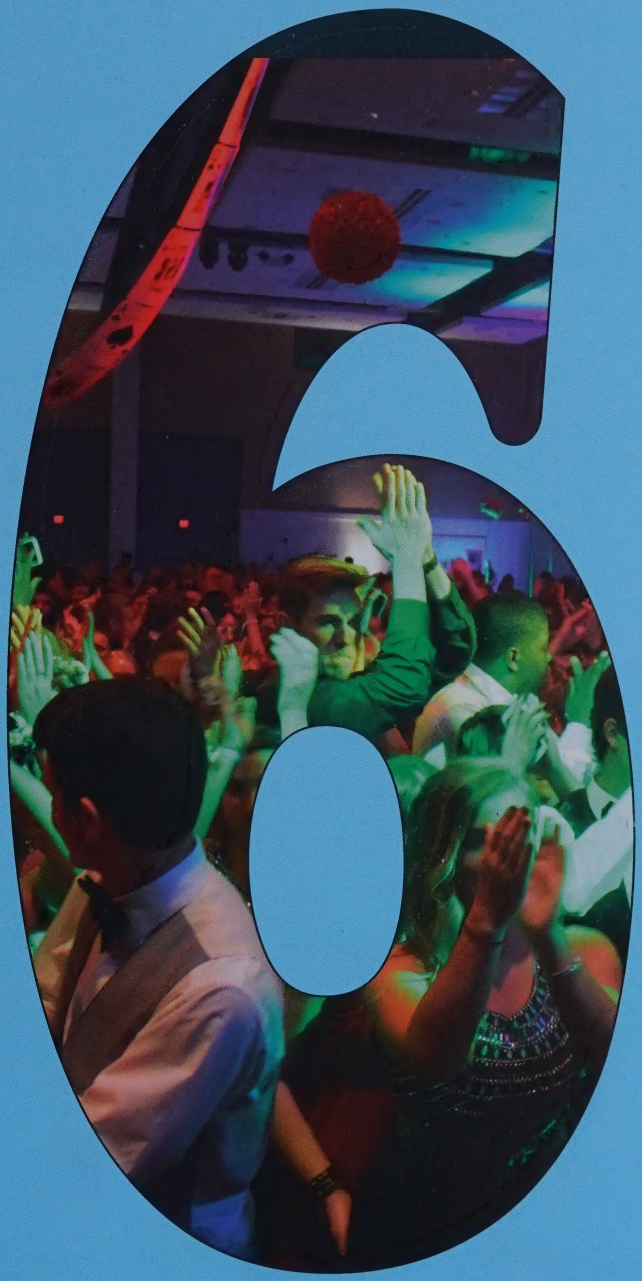
PHOTO BY EMMA PEARL

the biggest ar



nd the best of





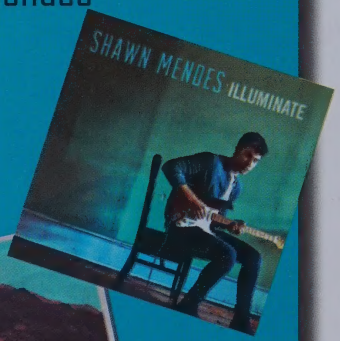
FASHION

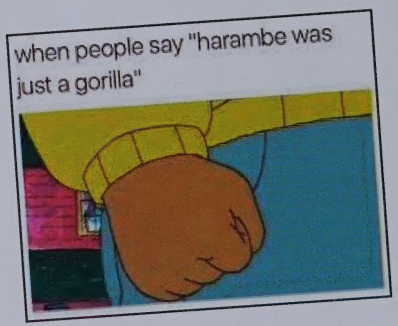
- Bralettes
- Yeezys
- Lokai
- Alex and Ani
- Mudlove
- Flannel scarves
- the colors olive & maroon
- Love Pearl necklaces
- Sanuk Sandals
- Duck Boots

sanuk

MUSIC

- Twenty-One Pilots
- Chainsmokers
- Alessia Cara
- Halsey
- Shawn Mendes
- Troye





MEMES

- Arthur
- Inner Kermit
- Harambe
- Dab
- Bottle Flip Challenge

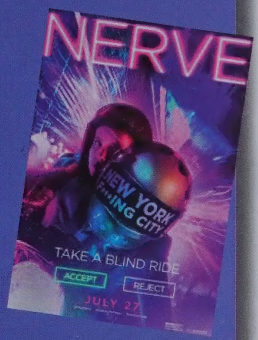
ORANGE is the new BLACK

TV

- Stranger Things
- Fuller House
- Orange is the New Black
- This is Us
- Gilmore Girls revival

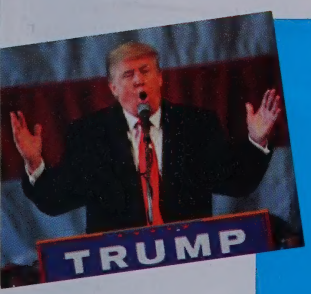
MOVIES

- Deadpool
- Finding Dory
- Nerve
- Civil War
- Superman vs. Batman
- Suicide Squad

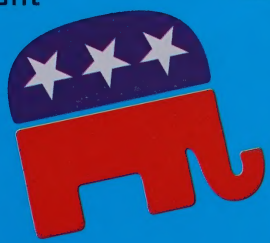


SUICIDE SQUAD

NETFLIX

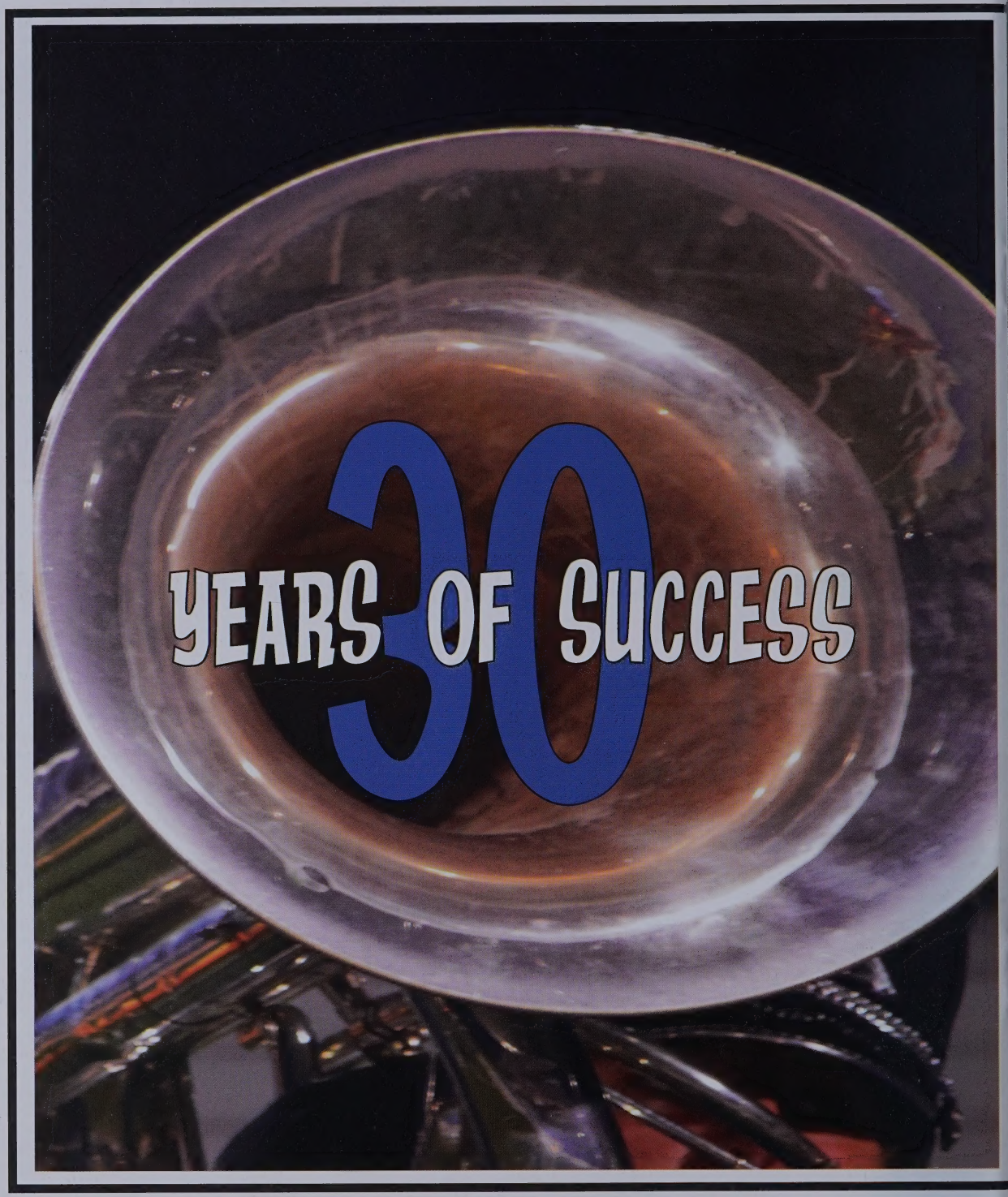


- Trump for President
- RIP Brangelina
- RIP Vine
- Kanye Vs. Taylor
- Prince Died



IN THE NEWS

DESIGNED BY KAYLEE YANOVICH


30
YEARS OF SUCCESS

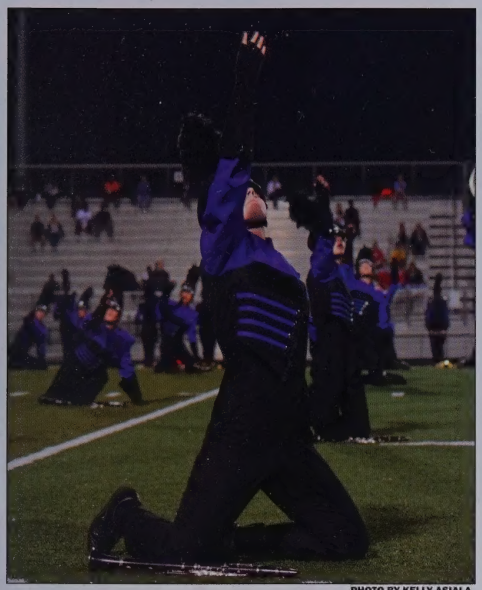


PHOTO BY KELLY ASIALA

PHOTO BY ALANA HAUPERT

BAND ACHIEVES GREATNESS IN POST SEASON WHILE MOURNING LOSS OF INSTRUMENTAL PART OF TEAM

BY EMMA LEININGER AND ISABELLA HOLLMAN

Opinion Editor and Writer

This past year, the Homestead Spartan Alliance Band suffered a tremendous loss. Steve Barber, band director, mourned the death of his wife, Nancy, and the tragedy affected the entire band. Mrs. Barber had been with the band for all 29 years with Mr. Barber, instructing the color guard for many years then stepping back to be an assistant instructor. The loss of Mrs. Barber was challenging for everyone who knew her and motivated a lot of students to dedicate this year and performance to her memory. Despite the tragic loss, the band had tremendous victory throughout the season, showing their dedication to making their performance great, and making Mrs. Barber proud.

"The show this year for me was about making greatness," Madi Dornseif (12) said. "All I wanted was for Mrs. Barber to be proud of us. This show was the most loving, heartfelt, heartbreaking and moving show I've ever been in. It was special. It was for her. I wanted to give my everything. I put my heart and soul out into this show because Mrs. Barber would have wanted to see the best in every single one of us."

At the beginning of the season, the band had a difficult time transitioning due to the loss of such an instrumental part of their organization.

"The loss of Mrs. Barber was a really tough transition throughout the entirety of the year." Noah Krueger (11) said. "In the beginning, it was really hard for the band to function and figure out what we needed to be with an amazing piece of us missing."

Despite the difficulties, the band certainly had an incredible season placing third at Indiana State School Musical Association (ISSMA) State Finals and 11th at Bands of America's (BOA) Grand National Championships. The band was extremely proud of their accomplishments and each member was gratified with the success of the team.

"I think we did amazing," Amille Howard (10) said. "This year was particularly hard since 25 bands who made it into Bands of America made it into finals the past four years. So I'm very proud of that,"

Compared to other years, the band also felt that this year was special as they connected more as a team and found the wow factor both in their performance and their ability to work together.

"Compared to previous years, this one was a miracle," Krueger said. "Last year we felt like there was no wow factor, but this year we really came together and found so much meaning while learning to love each other."

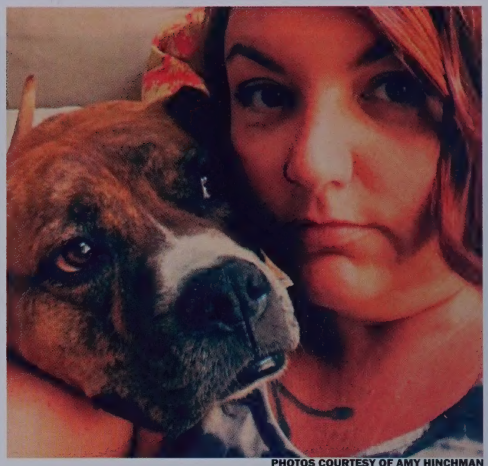
However, the band is continuing to learn and grow and from this season, they will carry their new experience into next year.

"There's a lot we can carry into next year, we're definitely going to take our friendships and dedication from this year and amplify it next year to be even greater." Krueger said. "Mentally and physically we want to strive to work better and better each year and we really are focusing on that approach going into the off-season and into next year.

Although the band did not win state or place in the top 10 at BOA, they believe that the transformation in talent from the beginning of the season to the end and the level of performance they were able to achieve truly dictates their success, and not the scores from the judges.

"I have an indescribable amount of pride in everyone," Michaela Rice (10) said. "Since band camp,everyone has unconditionally strived for greatness and because of that we've been able to accomplish amazing things. I think we did phenomenal at both State and Bands of America but at the end of the day you can't determine success by six people's opinions and interpretations of our show."

ADOPT! DON'T SHOP



PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMY HINCHMAN

KAYLEE YANOVICH
Co-Online Editor

While a majority of students have a pet or two, the adoption process is one that only some have experienced. Amy Hinchman, paraprofessional, goes the extra mile in this process.

"I became a foster parents to several dogs, and it kind of just snowballed from there," Hinchman said.

Her adoption journey first started as volunteer work at local shelters and the humane society.

"I did a lot of adoption events, going and saving dogs, but then I was pulling animals on my own and adopting them out," she said.

Her favorite shelter has always been the one in Anderson, Ind., for one main reason.

"It's a high kill shelter," Hinchman said. "No fault of the shelter, it's great, but the population of dogs down there is large, so they're often forced to make room."

She tries to adopt as many and as often as possible, knowing that it helps the shelter and the dogs in it.

"I feel like I'm saving a life," Hinchman said.

While in recent years she has taken a step back from this lifestyle due to her job and family, she is still heavily involved in many animals' well-being and care. Her main area of involvement is in transportation of previously adopted dogs.

"It's a whole network of people across the entire country," Hinchman said. "Dogs will find homes on the whole other side of the coast."

Usually they call the people helping 'legs,' and they will typically drive around an hour each, helping the dog along its way from wherever it was to where it is going.

While the adoption process may not always be easy, she has enjoyed all of her pets and experiences with them.

"There's been some tough ones, but they've all been enjoyable," Hinchman said. "I think there's this stigma behind shelter dogs that they're there for a reason. That's probably 99% false. For the most part those dogs are there for no faults of their own, it's almost always a human issue."

Hinchman stresses the importance of this recognition through her own personal experience with dogs that may not always seem to be the nicest when people see them at the shelter.

"They're completely different when they're out of the shelter," Hinchman said, speaking of her pitbull she has recently adopted. "As soon as I got her out, she calmed down. She's probably the most laid back and chill dog out of all of mine."

This is something important to keep in mind for anyone looking to adopt. Every dog in the shelter has a different story and they may not be happy to be there. However, they may change once they are in a comfortable environment.

"They might look a certain way but act a completely different way," Hinchman said.

Adoption is a big part of many animals' lives, and is an important idea to take into consideration when looking for any kind of pet. Local shelters such as the ACSPCA and Animal Care & Control are great local places to get involved with or adopt pets from. If anyone is looking to give a pet as a gift this holiday season, adoption is the way to go.

Milly is a rescue from a hoarder home in Indianapolis, IN. She was adopted out within a week to a local Southwest Allen County family.

Trixie is a Jack Russel Terrier, rescued from Jay County Animal Control. She was dumped off at the shelter when her elderly owner went into the hospital. She was fostered for about 2 months and then adopted out to a friend of Hinchman's.

PUPPY SPOTLIGHT

Megan is a deaf Pit Bull who was rescued from the Animal Protection League in Anderson, Ind. She was gravely sick with pneumonia, skin isuues, and severely emaciated. She slowly came back around after IV's, meds, and breathing treatments. After a couple months of teaching her some sign language, she was adopted out to a family in Decatur.

Sammy is a senior Chihuahua was rescued from the Jay County Humane Society. Her elderly owner had passed away and the family had dumped her at the shelter. She wasn't doing well and the shelter manager suggested Hinchman take her to foster. She came home with her and never left. She very sweet and rules the house, as Chihuahua's often do.

DESIGNED BY KAYLEE YANOVICH

Do the Holidays Get you Down?

Don't Be a Humbug this Holiday Season

BY ALEXIS JORDAN

Co-Online Editor

As the holiday season approaches, it is time for everyone to get out their Christmas cheer and sing it loud for all to hear. At least that is what usually happens around Christmas, but as time goes by, it seems that the Christmas spirit actually begins to fade.

When we were younger, we believed in Santa Claus and always anticipated waking up that Christmas morning to see what presents we had. Now we do not care how early we wake up and are not as excited about the presents.Christmas has almost lost its spark since the whole myth shattered, and the excitement of tracking Santa and leaving him cookies is no longer there.

As teenagers, Christmas became synonymous with two weeks off of school. For some of us, that is the most exciting part of the holiday. The fact that we are now expected to buy gifts haunts us. When you are young, you do not have any responsibility for others, but now that we are older and some have jobs, it is the right thing to do. Not that this is anything bad but it lessens the excitement for Christmas.

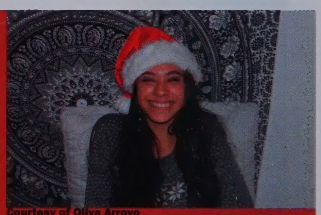
Asking a five year old about why he or she loves

Christmas would give you a completely different answer than asking a 15 year old. Yes, it is pretty to see all the Christmas lights and decorations around the town. The Christmas music playing in stores always brings smiles to people's faces. But the fact is, now the holiday is filled with the stress of buying presents, making sure family can get together and not forgetting anyone, suddenly the magic of the day is lost.

My advice to those who do not get excited about this holiday anymore is to sit back and refocus on what Christmas is all about. It's not about how much you spend on gifts, but spending time with your family and friends. Presents are nothing but a symbol of love toward your friends and family. It's about spreading love to all and enjoying days to yourself. Next time you begin to stress about this holiday, just remember what it was like to wake up early Christmas morning, amazed at all the presents under the tree. Remember the feeling you got when you finally opened the gift you've been waiting for, the moment when you're sitting at dinner with your family and you can see the snow faintly falling. All those special moments are what Christmas is truly about.

Do you think you lose Christmas spirit as you get older? Why or why not?

" I feel like you lose the spirit because theres less anticaption, like there is not much excitement or wonder about what is going to be waiting for you under the tree. Then there realization that santa is not real but hey. Once you grow up I guess you try to keep the spirit alive for others and yourself because of the joy it brings." -Oliva Arroyo (11)



Courtesy of Oliva Arroyo

Courtesy of Regan Jones

"I think it really depends from person to person whether or not you lose christmas spirit as you get older. Some people just start to lose the liking for christmas because every year it changes: the traditions change, the people in your life change, or where you are might chang . People just lose the love for christmas, while others just find ways to adopt each year and fall in love with the holiday season all over again. So to me it is kind of a yes or no." -Regan Jones (11)

"My favorite memory was probably a few years ago when I spent time with my family out in Cali. We went to univerisal and got stuck on the Jurrasic Park ride."
Wyatt Hunter (12)

"I'd say one my favorite Christmas memories is when I was about 7 and one of my relatives opened their present and it was an actual potato and nobody admitted who gave that to them. Still not sure."
Zoe Braken (10)

"My favorite memory is getting One Direction tickets... or just setting up the tree every year."
Regan Jones (11)

Here's to the good old days...

As a reminder to all to enjoy their winter holidays, go back to the past and remember the fun holidays once brought.

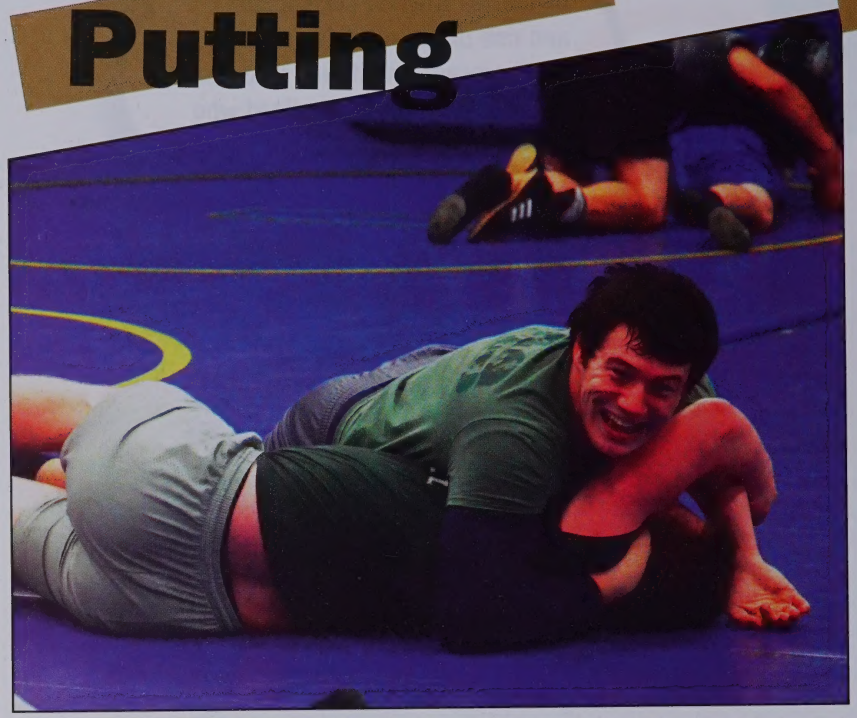
"My funniest Christmas was when I forgot that metal cups cannot be microwaved, so I put one in there. I ended up catching the microwave on fire. "
Elyse Bishop (11)

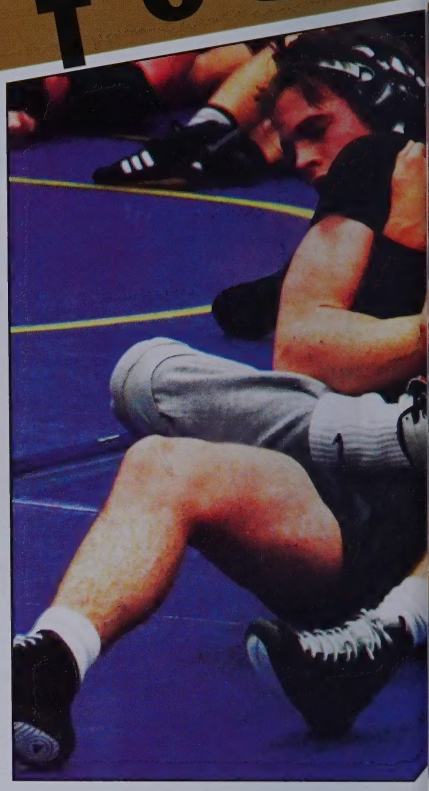
"My favorite memory was when I got my first concert tickets ."
Jacob Conarty (11)

" My favorite memory of Christmas when I was younger would be probably by getting an Xbox and playing it all day with my brother and dad for the first time."
Noah Kruger (11)

DESIGNED BY ALEXIS JORDAN

Putting the Pieces Together





Hunter Damron (11) is happy to gain the upper edge against his teammate, close to pinning him down and winning hte match.

LAUREN BERTA

Writer

"To win everything, be the best, dominate our opponents and that coaches, wrestlers and fans in the area would say that Homestead wrestles harder than any team in the area;" these are the goals of the wrestling team this year, according to Nathan DeVaux, coach.

This season, the wrestling team is riled up and ready to go. However, the sport doesn't have a history of large crowd turnout, not getting a lot of support from the school community.

"Most people don't take the time to really understand the sport," said DeVaux.

Many athletes are drawn to more marketable sports such basketball and football. To the team, the issue is promoting wrestling the same way as other sports are promoted. The Spartana is here to put the pieces together.

"Homestead traditionally hasn't had a big wrestling following, so it's just a cultural thing that we need to change and make our events more well-known so that way people are more encouraged to come out and attend," DeVaux said.

Evidently, wrestling takes a different kind of athlete compared to the more popular sports.

"You don't have to be as big physically because you make up for it with coordination," said Jacob Davis (12). "There is no discriminating factor, physically."

The reason for the sport not being as well recognized as others could be a result of the more focused value system compared to other sports. "We [want] good attitudes, to treat our opponents and the schools that we wrestle with as gentlemen, and respect our families and classmates," said DeVaux. The wrestling team wants "to do things the right way."

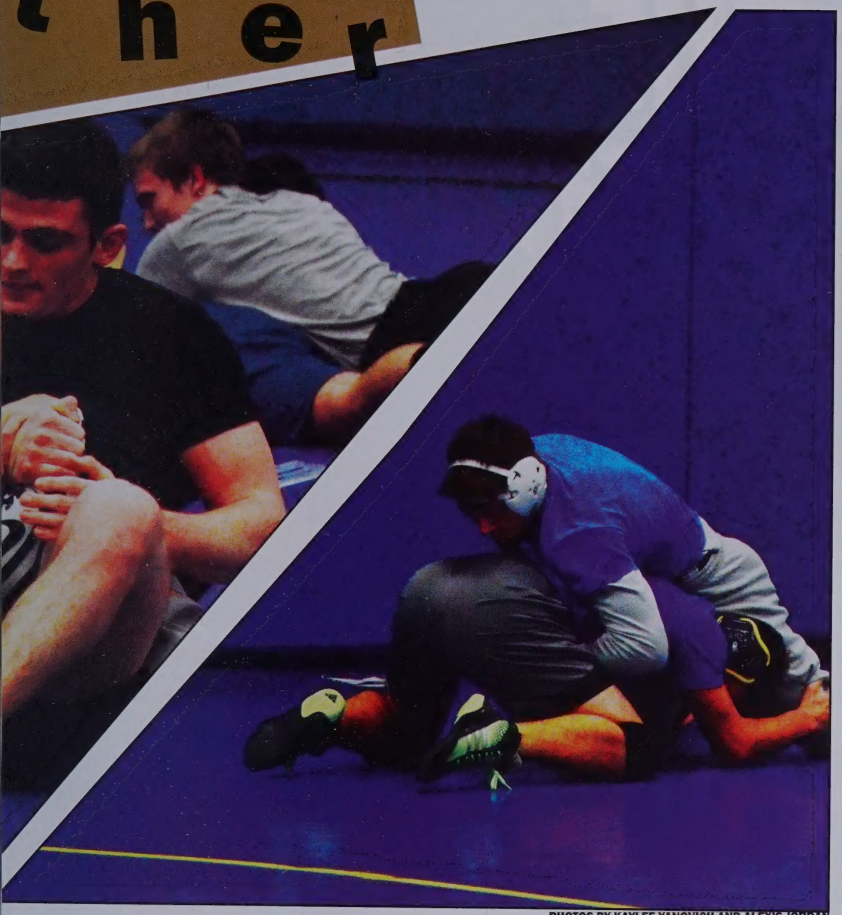
While the team wants to be successful and is working hard to train for competition, the pressure comes from personal ambition instead of from the school.

"Wrestling doesn't bring a bunch of revenue for a school, and most people don't take the time to really understand the sport," said DeVaux. The team therefore relies on each other for support, and pushes each other to personal growth.

This year the team has put forth an effort to improve practices and make sure wrestling has a better impact.

"We run practices a little different, it's not just all wrestling," said DeVaux. "There's more time for personal development and fo-

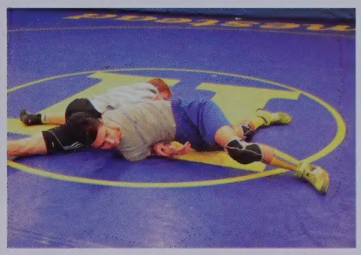
t h e r



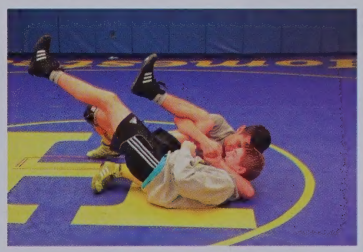
PHOTOS BY KAYLEE YANOVICH AND ALEXIS JORDAN

Brady Wyro (11) struggles to pin down his teammate, caught around the knees, and Scott Lentz (12) wraps his legs around Thomas Wible (11) to pull him down.

All The Right Moves



The Chicken



The Cradle

The 1/2 Nelson

sing on goals."

he seniors have been a large art in the changes made this ear.

t's a different year, there's a ew mentality with the team, nd we've done a lot of progres- ve stuff. . . we're running things little differently now," said Scott ntz (12).

here are now mandatory grade ecks and a stronger focus on am building, as well as an em- hasis on learning about yourself.

m excited cause the last three ears we've began to take steps rward," said DeVaux.

ew this year is the addition of a am manager, sophomore Kins- y Rushing. "She's been a great lp," said DeVaux. "She handles all of our administrative stuff. I haven't had to deal with any paperwork so that allows the other coaches to focus on what we do well, which is coaching."

This year, the sense of community has developed this year in a positive direction.

"We're looking at a great season this year," said Chandler Quade (12).

The new and improved attitude has stirred up the team.

"I'm excited to see how we do this year," said DeVaux. "I think that this will be our best season yet."

Every team member is devoting their energy to the success of the team.

"We all strive for greatness," said Quade.

DESIGNED BY LAUREN BERTA

TAKING THE ICE BY STORM

ALEXIS JORDAN

Online Editor

As the weather gets colder, it is time for those ice skates to come on and the pucks to come out. The hockey team's season has just begun, but they are hard at work to make this a great season. With this year's team being made up of all boys, despite the previous season having a few girl members, the team is fairly young. There are only a few upperclassmen this year, which means they must take on leading role and help the underclassman in their skills.

"I am one of the veterans on the team and need to lead and play by example," Ben Wells (11) said.

The season has just begun, but already they have taken the ice by storm.

"It started out a bit rough and we had a lot of injuries to start with, but I think we are really pulling it together now," Philippe Nicol (11) said.

The team's main focus is to make it to state finals as well as building a stronger bond as a team and keep pushing forward as the competition gets more intense. Now that they have had a few games in, they are starting to see their strengths and weaknesses and are pushing toward ways to become better as a whole and individually.

Since most of the players have been participating in this sport since they were young kids, it drives them to push themselves forward and always enhance their abilities.

"We all have a lot of care for the game, we really enjoy playing," Nicol said.

With a long season ahead, it allows for the team to practice and learn from their first games and see how well the team works together. With only a few games in, it is still early enough in the season to try out different things and see what works the best for this group of players. With the help of the upperclassman and the corporation of the new comers, there is no doubt that the team will strive for their best.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TRAVIS BAUER

Fantasy FOOTBALL

KAYLEE YANOVICH

Online Editor

The last couple months have been buzzing with drafts, games, tailgates and crowded sports bars. What does all this mean? Football season. While everyone has a favorite team or player to be watching, things are a lot more interesting when everyone creates their own team.

Fantasy football has been popular for years now, and the school has begun to get in on the buzz. The 6th period Sports Marketing class has started their own fantasy football league to help bring them closer as a class and to have a little more fun with what they're learning.

"It's probably 90% guys in that class and we all watch football," Scott Lentz (12) said. "Mr. Mitchell threw the idea out there and everyone bought it so I set it up."

The students in the class took a couple days of class to set up a draft in which everyone picked the players they wanted on their team. The rest of the work is left up to their players and their team. The majority of the league is outside of class, but they do not forget to talk about it during school.

"I've had kids that I don't even know come up to me and make fun of me for beating me," Lentz said.

While it may not all have to do with the topic of sports marketing, the league has done an excellent job in bringing the class together.

"On Monday morning they're all talking about how their teams are doing, and who got beat," Mitchell said.

However, there is always the positive effects that they do not even know they are gaining from being in the league.

"It gives them a reason to watch sports," Mitchell said. "We talk about advertising, sponsors and player behavior and how that affects a team."

However, the hype does not stop in sports marketing. Fantasy football is popular among many students at the school, and there are many reasons for this.

"It's fun to feel like you're a part of something," Lentz said. Along with this, it is a great way to be invested in a sport without the commitment of actually playing on a team. The HHS Indepth class plays fantasy football through the ESPN website. Matthew Wetherill (12) is currently in first place in the HHS ID league, while Wyatt Hunter is close beghind in second place. The students drafted players for a team and each week they pick starters who they feel will score points. The students can also trade players during the season. Weatherill's top scoring players are Atlanta Falcons wide receiver Julio Jones and Chicago Bears running back Jordan Howard.

"I like sports so it's a fun way to keep up with all the teams and stay invested," Wetherill said.

His love for football has also resulted in monetary rewards. Although the HHS ID class does not compete for cash, Wetherill is in a league with his dad and other adults. "Two years ago my dad let me pick players for his team and we won the league, so he shared some of his winnings," Wetherill said.

While fantasy football might not be the best way to get outside and enjoy the autumn weather, it brings people together and allows for some pretty rowdy Sunday nights.

Good thru Jan. 31, 2017
LASSUS HANDY DANDY
ELMO'S PIZZA & SUBS
$1 OFF!
Any Elmo's Pizza!
Class 2 Coupon (HF)
This Coupon Good At Select Lassus Handy Dandy Locations
Limit one per customer per day. Not valid with any other specials.

DESIGNED BY EMMA PEARL

finals schedule

Monday, Dec. 19
Period 1 7:45 – 8:38
Period 2 8:44 – 10:14 (EXAM)
Period 3 10:20 – 12:01
A Lunch 10:14 - 10:41
B Lunch 10:41 - 11:08
C Lunch 11:08 - 11:35
D Lunch 11:35 - 12:01
Period 5 12:07 – 1:37 (EXAM)
Period 6 1:43 – 2:35

Tuesday, Dec. 20
Period 1 7:45 – 9:15 (EXAM)
Period 3 9:21 – 10:51 (EXAM)
Period 4 10:57 – 12:38
A Lunch 10:51 - 11:18
B Lunch 11:18 - 11:45
C Lunch 11:45 - 12:12
D Lunch 12:12 - 12:38
Period 6 12:44 – 2:14 (EXAM)
Period 7 2:20 – 2:35

Wednesday, Dec. 21
Period 4 7:45 – 9:15 (EXAM)
Period 7 9:21 – 10:51 (EXAM)

spartana

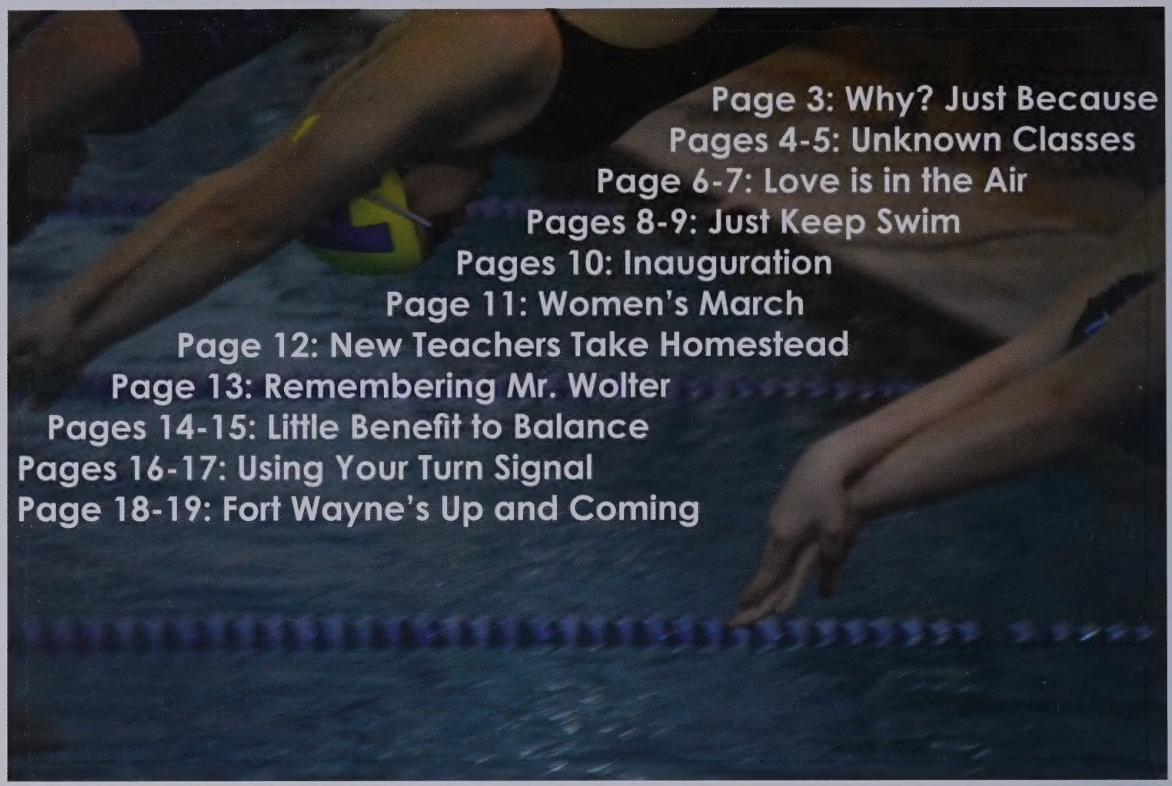
february 2017

@TheSpartana

@thespartana

ARTWORK BY CORINNE ROUTH

2017 Scholastic Gold Key Winner



Page 3: Why? Just Because
Pages 4-5: Unknown Classes
Page 6-7: Love is in the Air
Pages 8-9: Just Keep Swim
Pages 10: Inauguration
Page 11: Women's March
Page 12: New Teachers Take Homestead
Page 13: Remembering Mr. Wolter
Pages 14-15: Little Benefit to Balance
Pages 16-17: Using Your Turn Signal
Page 18-19: Fort Wayne's Up and Coming

Spartana Staff

Editor-In-Chief
Michal Spanjer

Copy Editor
Ethan Zweig

Online Editors
Lexi Jordan
Kaylee Yanovich

News Editor
Arika Akin

Opinion Editor
Emma Leininger

Life Editor
Emma Pearl

Writers
Lauren Berta
Lisa Chen
Jonathan Dauterman

Photograper
Winter Freeman

Adviser
Terri Nowak

Editorial Policy

The Spartana is a monthly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed. Southwest Allen County School corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be emailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

Why? Just Because

JONATHAN DAUTERMAN

Writer

The school's next big event, Just Because Week, will commence Feb. 13. Just Because Week is an event where, as the name implies, the school celebrates and plans activities for the sole purpose of being able to do so.

Just Because Week is "a series of random events in the middle of the school year, because we don't get any breaks between winter break and spring break," Allisa Braman, freshman counselor and planner of the event, said.

Every day of the week will have a theme to it. The Monday theme is Marvel Monday, where students are encouraged to dress as Marvel superheroes; Tuesday (which falls on Valentine's Day) will be Tons of Love Tuesday, where students dress as their significant others; Wednesday is World Traveler Wednesday, where students can dress up as tourists; the penultimate Throwback Thursday is when students can dress like teenagers of the 1950s and 60s; and the final day, Fan Friday, is where students are encouraged to wear shirts of their favorite television series.

On Feb. 13, the school will have a junior vs seniors boys volleyball tournament at 6:30 p.m., dubbed the Notorious Netters. On the following Wednesday and Thursday, they will have the Variety Show, a talent show completely run by the students.

"The juniors and seniors will completely MC it," Braman said. "Basically, it's all student-run."

The variety of students' talents will attract individuals in the area that do not necessarily attend the school. In the past, parents have shown their support of the school by attending. The show will be performed in the auditorium both nights. Finally, that first week will end with a pep rally on Feb. 17.

The following Wednesday, the Dirty Duckers dodgeball tournament between the junior and senior girls will commence at 7 p.m. While only upperclassmen can play, younger students are encouraged to come, socialize with their friends and root for the players.

Finally, Just Because Week will end the following day, Feb. 23, with A Taste of Homestead, a free after school event where the various national and lingual clubs of the school will be manning booths with foods from the cultures they represent (for example, the Spanish Club will have a booth of authentic Mexican food).

"Places like Asia and Africa, which don't have a specific club to represent them, will be funded by the student government," Braman said. "So come hungry, because there's a lot of food."

One thing that the student government wants to emphasize is that, besides the Notorious Netters and Dirty Duckers games, any student can participate in the Just Because Week activities. Even then, however, underclassmen are still invited to watch both games.

In order to emphasize the fact that the students have come up with and are running the whole event, the student government has made sure that they, along with a few choice clubs for the Taste of Homestead event, are the ones doing the planning.

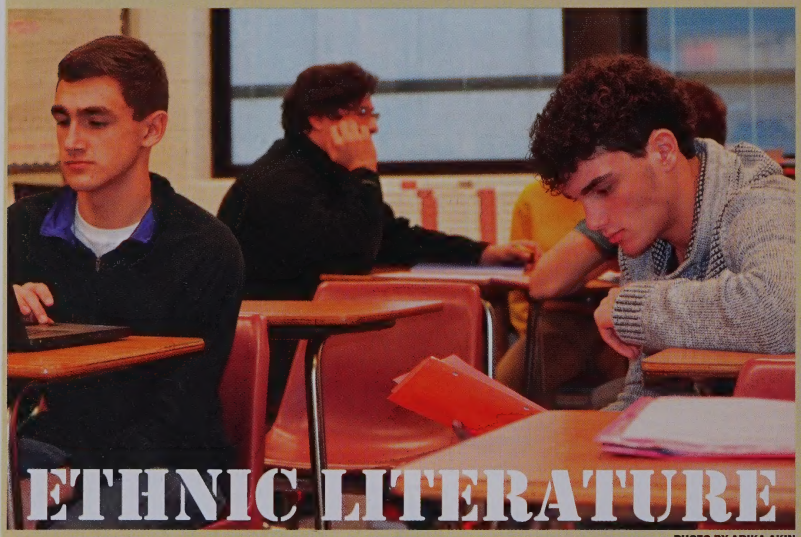
Afua Addo (12), Callie Moren (12), Jenna Klinker (12), Meredith Gray (12), Evan Elston (12), Matthew Wetherill (12) and Alayna Kriegel (12) pose with an example of the themes of Just Because Week.

DESIGNED BY JONATHAN DAUTERMAN

SPARTANA DECLASSIFIED: UNKNOWN CLASSES

ARIKA AKIN

News Editor



ETHNIC LITERATURE

PHOTO BY ARIKA AKIN

Students in Erin Whitt's Ethnic Literature class work together on a project. Students in this class are given the opportunity to analyze how authors express cultural identity and cultural issues within their writing. The semester-long class is open to Juniors and Seniors who have completed English 10.

Students interested in learning more about literature, specifically literature with a focus on multicultural issues, have the opportunity to join Homestead's Ethnic Literature class. Within this class, open to students who have competed English 111, students are given the opportunity to analyze how cultural identity is visible through literature.

"We read works by authors who are not part of the traditional English curriculum, such as Chimanda Ngozi Adichie, Jhumpa Lahri, Toni Morrison and Junot Diaz" Erin Whitt, Ethnic Literature teacher, said.

Within the class students are also given the opportunity to listen to personal accounts from local speakers who have come from other parts of the world.

The class is research and discussion based, and though it is a less traditional English course, it does count as an English credit for the Core 40 with Academic Honors diploma.

"Students should take this course if... they think that they have no interest in learning about other cultures and ethnicities," Whitt said. "These students tend to get the most out of this course."

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

PHOTO BY ARIKA AKIN

A student in Don Lines's Transportation Systems class cleans up the metal shop room near the end of class. Students in any grade can join this class to learn about the transportion systems on land, in the water, in the air, and in space. This class is not connected to other pre-engineering or PLTW classes at Homestead.

Students who choose to take Transportation Systems are given an opportunity to learn about how transportation systems worldwide are used to move people and commerce in the most efficient way possible. The class also allows students to study the energy resouces that go into moving commerce and people.

"It's similar to all of our technology courses," Don Lines, class instructor, said. "We just like to make kids aware of issues, especially with energy and power. Energy and power are especially important in transportation, and I feel that it's really important that students understand the way we use energy in this country and around the world, and how we're destroying the planet by using so much fossil fuels."

This class is aimed towards all students, whether they are planning on going into engineering or not. With the amount of courses offered at Homestead, only students who wish to go into something involving transportation tend to take the class.

"A lot of people don't even know that (the metal shop room) exists," Lines said, "and a lot of people don't know that I exist."

SCUBA DIVING

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE MILLER

Mike Miller's First Semester SCUBA diving class before completing a dive in Kentucky. Students dive in the Summit Natatorium and in lakes around Fort Wayne to become certified SCUBA divers. After completing their certification, students can dive in lakes and oceans around the world for the rest of their lives.

Homestead students who have completed two semesters of Physical Education and who wish to become a certified SCUBA diver should join the SCUBA diving class offered through the school. Students enrolled in this course will participate in a variety of open water and closed water dives, at the Summit Natatorium and in local lakes.

"[The goal of] SCUBA class is just to get kids certified because it is a lifetime activity," Mike Miller, class instructor, said. "When they get their certification, they're certified for life. You can (dive) anywhere in the world; with my certification I've been diving in Greece, Japan, Belize, and I'm going to Honduras."

The class does cost $200, but this covers the equipment costs for the class as well as the certification costs. Other local classes cost over $400 -- a price that does not cover equipment rental.

The class is currently being offered fifth period of both semesters, as otherwise there would not be enough time for the students to dive during school.

The class is open to all grade levels as long as the interested student has completed two semesters of Physical Education. Professional Association Dive Instructor certifications do not expire,

EXPOSITORY WRITING

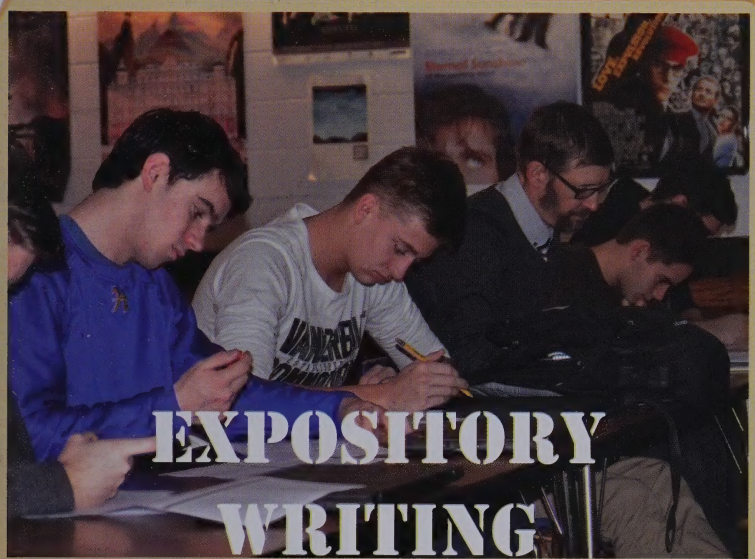


PHOTO BY ARIKA AKIN

Students in Scott Hill's Expository Writing class work together. This class is only offered second semester to students who have completed Advanced Composition. It is also available as a Senior Experience class. Interested soon-to-be Seniors can sign up for the class, which will be offered as a block class during third and fourth periods Mondays and Wednesdays next school year.

Within Expository Writing, a class only offered second semester to seniors who have completed Advanced Composition, students are given the opportunity to apply their English skills to writing for a variety of different audiences.

"Most seniors don't enter the class unil the last semester of their Senior year, and as soon as they've experienced the class, they graduate, so there's really not a lot of time for word to trickle down throughout the rest of the student body," Scott Hill, class instructor, said. "They might be talking about it during their final semester, or at least I hope they are, but there's not a lot of folk lore going out about it."

The course is intended to prepare students for writing at a college level, and to prepare students for the tasks that they will be asked to complete during college courses, such as how to respond to college assignments. Students in the class focus on developing creative and personal responses to the articles and other works that they read during the class.

NEW TEACHERS TAKE HOMESTEAD

PHOTO BY LISA CHEN

LISA CHEN

Writer

With second semester underway, three new teachers have transitioned into positions at school. Teresa Hearn teaches advanced child development, international cuisine and nutrition and wellness in the family and consumer sciences department. Furthemore, Kim Brown teaches Algebra I and II. While Nicole Detter, media center specialist, is not a new face around school, she has accepted an additional role as the English Composition teacher.

Hearn's past work experience will benefit her in the fresh classroom setting.

"This is actually my first classroom as a teacher," Hearn said. "I am a certified school social worker and that has been my role in schools for over 25 years. There's a lot of child development in social work so I feel very comfortable with that. The opportunity to be a part of that [family and consumer sciences] is just a part of who I am."

Although transitioning into a new job can be frightening, students and staff have been helpful and welcoming.

"Everybody is so nice, not just the faculty, but also the students," Hearn said. "There's been no behavioral problems. Everybody has been cooperative, there has been no issues and I have loved it."

Additionally, Hearn holds goals for her teaching that she will strive for during the year.

"I don't want to just end up in lecture," Hearn said. "I want to hear from the students. I want it to be a meaningful conversation and a meaningful learning time."

Another addition to the staff, Brown, decided to become a teacher because of the right timing.

"I stayed home to raise my kids," Brown said. "My youngest headed off to college so I was ready to get in the classroom. I had stayed home and tutored and decided it was time to be a full time teacher."

Although Brown enjoys all subjects, one stood out to her.

"I love math," Brown said. "It was hard for me to pick a subject but math is my favorite."

Brown chose her teaching job because of prior connections and her contentment with the environment.

"All my kids went here," Brown said. "I really enjoy working with the high school kids and getting to know them, which is my favorite part."

Additionally, because Detter already holds a job at the school, she was chosen for her new position.

"When Mr. Wolter left, there was a need to teach three composition classes," Detter said. "Mr. Ginder wanted someone on staff who could stay for the whole semester so the students had continuity, so he asked me."

While Detter has not faced any problems with being an English teacher, the same assistance must be provided in the media center.

"I taught English for 20 years," Detter said. "It's more trying to figure out how to have the same services in the media center as we had before when I'm gone half the day. Luckily, Mrs. Lempke is a wonderful assistant."

Detter's current experience at the college teaching level has helped her in her additional position.

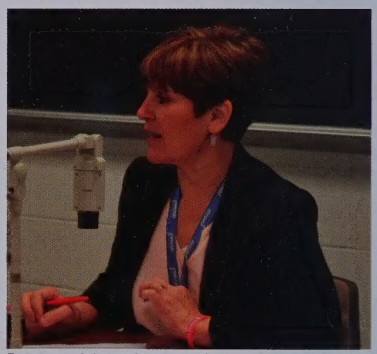
"I also teach at IPFW," Detter said. "The point of composition is to transition from high school to college writing so it was a good fit for me."

Furthermore, being a teacher possesses many positive differences compared to being a media center specialist.

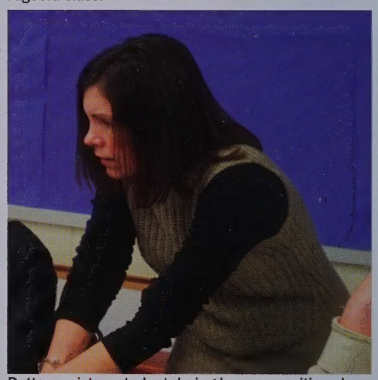
"It's nice to have your own kids," Detter said. "In the media center I have my service workers but it's different when you have your own students who are assigned to you. You get to know people differently and I like that."

If you see any of the new teachers around the building, make sure to welcome them to the Spartan community.

Hearn works in her classroom.



Brown explains a lesson to her students during her Algebra class.



Detter assists a student during her composition class.

PHOTOS BY WINTER FREEMAN

Remembering Mr. Wolter

The Homestead Speech and Debate team is greatly saddened by the sudden, unexpected passing of Joe Wolter. Joe was instrumental in establishing the debate side of the team and has managed it admirably during his tenure, becoming a reliable fixture in Indiana tournaments. Since 2005, he had been a steady guide to many students and worked hard to advance speech/debate education.

On a personal note, Joe was my right hand, someone who was immensely supportive of me personally. I will miss his steadfastness, his humor, and his passion. I regret that we won't be able to grow old and retire and have a morning coffee at some neighborhood diner once a week or so to chat about our families, our hobbies, and the world. Though that dream is lost, I'm comforted by many warm memories of my friendship with a stand-up guy like Joe.

-Travis Fisher

To me, Mr. Wolter was my coach. Not my teacher, but a coach, and there is a difference between the two. Even though you don't see a coach as much, there is more of a relationship because there just seems to be more of a personal relationship you get from that--as opposed to just listening to a lecture or answering some questions every day. In all honesty, I'm not very talented. When I joined debate, I had a significant losing streak and when I joined speech, that losing streak continued. However, despite this, Mr. Wolter continued to work with me.

He'd just keep trying to encourage me. I regret that I never truly thanked him for what he did for the speech team. I regret that I made fun of his love of ghost hunting. He gave a lot to the speech team, so I feel bad that I was never able to give anything back while he was around.

Rest in peace, Mr. Wolter.

-Riley Smith (11)

PHOTO BY EMMA PEARL

My name is Samantha Schubert and I am president of the Homestead High School Speech and Debate team. I first met Mr. Wolter four years ago at my first Speech and Debate meeting. My friend insisted I join her for at least a meeting. There, I met Mr. Wolter and Mr. Fisher, two teachers and coaches who have provided me with unending motivation and support.

Mr. Wolter was a father figure to the entire team. He encouraged us to try new events and push a little further with our research or performances. When seeing Mr. Wolter in the hallway at school, it was always nice to stop and have a quick chat about anything. He made sure we knew he was always available for questions or advice.

He was also a genuinely fun person to be around. Mr. Wolter always had a "dad joke" up his sleeve so he could laugh at us groaning. If he saw any of us reading a book, he would ask us what it was and if we were enjoying it. That usually led to a 20 minute conversation about anything from history to politics. Mr. Wolter loved discussions.

Mr. Wolter sacrificed so much time to the Speech and Debate team. I still wonder how he had time for work, his education and his family. Somehow, he made it all work. He spent countless Wednesday afternoons and Saturdays with us, not to mention any extra assistance he was willing to provide for us. He even spent his last birthday with us at Speech Sectionals.

Personally, I saw Mr. Wolter nearly every school day for the last four years and he always had a friendly smile and a "good morning" for all his students and the team.

There is no replacement for a man of Mr. Wolter's value, both for your family and our team.

-Samantha Schubert (12)

JUST KEEP SWIMMING

LAUREN BERTA

Writer

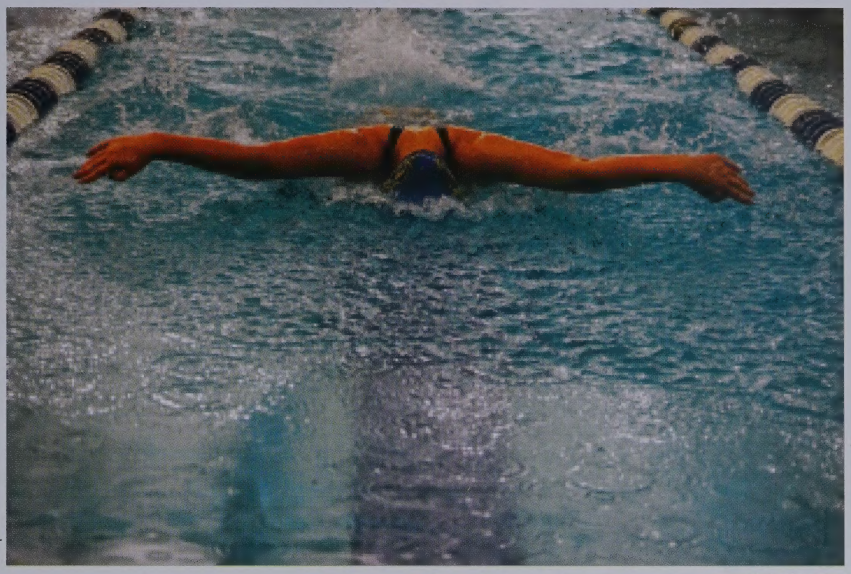


PHOTO BY SHELBY CRIST

Megan Godfrey, (10) left, performs breathstroke. Above Michaela Godfrey (11) performs butterfly.

Swim and dive "is one of the hardest sports out there," Julie Anderson, assistant coach, said.

Homestead swimmers put in countless hours of hard work, and their dedication has shown in both their accomplishments and the strain on their muscles.

Of these accomplishments, the swim team is proud of Kevin Freebal who achieved fame in the swimming world last year by breaking state records and winning the state diving title, easily claiming the title of the team's most successful diver.

"Wherever [he] went, he broke records," Anderson said.

Freebal went on to dive at University of Kentucky.

Swimmers this year have been following his example. Jackie Bren (10) set a pool record at Northridge January 7th, and Meghan Johnson (12) set the two hundred free-style record.

The team only expects to break more records before their season is over.

Their new coach Justin Max is a positive adjustment to the swim team.

"I am very excited about Coach Justin and all he brings to the table," Anderson said.

Max's future at Homestead is looking auspicious. Swim has had a number of coaches over the years, but this year's transition has gone especially smoothly.

For the swimmers, the transition to different coaches can be rocky, "but each has brought something different to the table and helped," Harley Heinerich (12) said, and Max is no exception.

With Anderson and Max's participation, the swimmers are excited this year.

"I feel more confident with my training this year than I ever have before," Heinerich said.

Contributing to the confidence of the swimmers is their participation in the SWAC club as well as the Homestead team. Where the Homestead team meets for roughly four months, SWAC is year round. The swimmers have a chance to get comfortable with both coaches year round.

For the kids that are in SWAC, "it is easier for them to transition," Max said. "They're usually in a better condition when seasons starts."

Both coaches express that those swimmers who stay in shape year round are less likely to get injuries. However, the swim team has seen an abnormally high number of those this year.

"We have several kids that are injured right now that we are hoping get well soon," Anderson said. "It is always devastating when something you love hurts you."

The swimmers hope their teammates recover and are able to swim before it is time to compete in sectionals this year.

That being said, "I'd rather they sit out and recover than keep training and getting hurt," Heinerich said.

While the coaches believe that SWAC participation means less injuries, the swimmers tend to disagree. Swimmer's muscles, particularly shoulders, undergo lots of stress, and for SWAC swimmers, that stress is more intense.

"You're doing it all year and it's just that much more strenuous," Heinerich said.

Yet, while there is chance of injury as a member of SWAC, it seems that there is an equally high chance of injury going into the pool unprepared for the Homestead season; this, both swimmers and coaches agree on.

"You don't usually see the same kind of injuries with [SWAC swimmers] as you do with people who are just trying to pick it up," Max said.

The more experienced the swimmer, the better the season will go for them.

Part of that experience is understanding the difference between "the good and bad pain," Heinerich said. "People who are not used to swimming year round sometimes don't know the difference between bad pain, when you need to stop swimming because it's time to recover, and good pain, when you've been working hard and your muscles are tired."

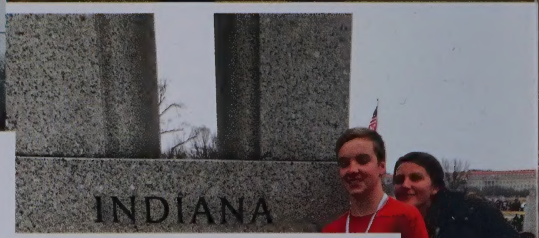
Part of the difficulty for younger, less experienced swimmers, is "the struggle transitioning to the high school training load," Max said. "It can just be a more than what they are used to."

The injuries are a combination of both the varying fitness levels of the swimmers and the intensity of their training sched-

PHOTOS BY LAUREN BERTA

Justin Max (coach) eats his daily banana.

#Inauguration



CORY TRANTER

Guest Writer

The weekend of Donald Trump's inauguration was filled with both joy and anger, as people across the country witnessed history. Both the inauguration itself and the Women's March drew large crowds of support, and the students in attendance will continue to carry with them the feeling of being part of history. Cory Tranter (11), guest writer, recalled his field trip to D.C., where he was able to watch the inauguration and explore historic landmarks alongside 24 classmates.

TRANTER: Moving forward a few feet was an accomplishment after standing in line for five hours. However, five hours is scant when compared to the traditions and customs that are foundational to our great nation. I did not know what to expect for my first live presidential inauguration in Washington, D.C., but standing there among my fellow classmates last week to witness a peaceful transition of power was worth the five hours in line.

This journey is part of a trip we planned one year ago. The planning started long before a grueling presidential campaign season and long before we had any idea of the victor. The group of about 25 social studies students left the school at noon on Jan. 18, aboard a charter bus, making the 11-hour trip to Washington, D.C. John Harkness, history teacher, organized the trip, allowing us to experience the sights and sounds of our nation's capital. Just as importantly, we witnessed the inauguration of Donald Trump as our 45th president.

After our five hour wait and tight security, we joined a sea of people at the National Mall and claimed our spot. Our vantage point was too far to see the cast of celebrities and dignitaries lining the stage of the Capitol steps. The sprawl of the Capitol building had the crowd in awe and underscored the gravity and national importance of the event. Jumbo-trons displayed the dignitaries in attendance, including Bernie Sanders, Bill and Hillary Clinton and George W. and Laura Bush. I found it astonishing to know all of those people were just a quarter-mile away. Snipers, sharpshooters and soldiers lay atop the surrounding Smithsonian museums and government buildings, overseeing the actions of this sea of people.

Then, Mike Pence assumed center stage to take his Vice Presidential oath. When he began his cadence, the crowd silenced. Finally, Trump was introduced to the stage with a huge roar from the crowd. I listened to every word of his oath, as I could not believe I was actually in the audience of the presidential inauguration. I listened to every word of his inaugural address, wondering how his phrases will resonate, be remembered and be debated in high school government classes of the future. His supporters cheered as he articulated his plan for the country.

During the trip, we visited the National Archives, Arlington Cemetery, the Smithsonian museums and the White House. While at Arlington Cemetery, we were stopped by security as Trump and Pence's motorcade drove up to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier for the wreath-laying ceremony. Luckily, we were able to catch the 5:00 p.m. Changing of the Guards Ceremony. The National Archives is home to the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The condition of the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights holds a surprise to first-timer viewers -- the ink is faded and virtually illegible. Fortunately, the Constitution still rests in near-pristine condition.

We returned to the school parking lot late at night on Jan. 22, after spending two hours alongside the road near Cleveland because our bus ran out of gas.

Regardless of whom we supported in the election, the opportunity to witness this testament of America's democracy is far more important than who takes the oath. Because of this, we will remember the four days spent in Washington, D.C. for the 2017 Presidential Inauguration. We left the parking lot as classmates and acquaintances, but we returned Sunday night as new best friends.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CORY TRANTER, AMEENA SOHAIL, REGAN JONES, GRACE ENGELHART, BRANDON WIGGINS, EMILY DYKSTRA AND MAGNOLIA KEANE

ART BY CORINNE ROUTH

IS IN THE AIR...

BY ALEXIS JORDAN

Co-Online Editor

It is almost that time of the year again where store walls are filled with red, pink and white, and heart-shaped candies fill the aisles. People are leaving left and right with bouquets of roses, or any flowers, for that matter. Giant stuffed teddy bears are being carried out of doors and shoved into trunks of cars. Restaurants are being booked up by the hour with people trying to set up dinner dates. Valentine's Day is a joyous holiday for all happy couples, but a depressing holiday for some single folks who are just wishing for the day to be over with. People who love it and people who do not understand the need for it disagree over whether or not the holiday is overrated.

It is a matter of opinion whether or not this holiday is too hyped up or necessary. For some, the day dedicated to romance is great and adds a bit of excitement to their relationship. It is a special day for them because they can take the time to go out to a nice dinner or exchange cute gifts with their significant other. However, some believe that the exploitation of stereotypical romance is unnecessary, as there is no need for a designated day in which couples feel compelled to make sure everyone else knows they are in a relationship. Date nights can be planned whenever couples want them to be, not on a specific day when everyone else does it. Some view the idea of having a set day to do something special with your significant other may be smug, as a couple could do this any other day of the year.

Some people think of Valentine's Day as a cliche holiday that is overpriced and not needed, while others view it as a enjoyable day to spend time with the one they love.

Another problem that comes from this holiday is how to spend it. The stereotypical answer would be to dress up and go to a nice dinner. The guy may buy some flowers, candies and jewelry, and the two might enjoy a nice rom-com together. While that is always an option, there are other way to enjoy the holiday without sticking to the cliches.

Instead of paying loads of money for a nice dinner, a couple could stay home and make dinner themselves. The two would be able bond as a couple and save some cash. An even simpler way to spend the day would be to stay in pajamas and cuddle up on the couch while watching a movies and eating some junk food. This may not seem as romantic but the most important part of the day is enjoying time together. A game night would be a more casual and fun Valentine's Day date night. Pick three or four favorite games and compete to see who is the master gamer. In reality, there is not a requirement to buy any chocolate, flowers or giant bears.

The idea of the holiday is not to see who can spend more or have the most romantic day, but to devote a day to spending time with a significant other. It is important to remember that it should not just be on Valentine's Day that people give and receive love, but on every other day spent together as well.

PHOTO BY MACKIE SCHROETER

LITTLE BENEFIT IN BALANCE

MICHAL SPANJER

Editor-in-Chief

More and more school districts nowadays have begun to adapt to a "balanced schedule," or a school year with a shorter summer break and longer fall and spring breaks. While this type of schedule allows students short vacations during the chaotic school year, it may deprive them of vital experiences and opportunities the gap between school years provides for them.

Students deserve a lengthy summer break in order to find engaging and worthwhile activities and opportunities. Programs during the two and a half month break offer a unique type of learning and knowledge which students would not be able to acquire strictly from a school environment. Camps, internships, summer jobs and seasonal outdoor activities teach students valuable skills, whether they be social or technical, and allow students to absorb information while enjoying themselves. This type of experience encourages lifelong learning because their associations with education go beyond essays and notecards.

With summer programs, students find a place to apply the skills they have picked up throughout the school year. Peter Scales, senior fellow at the Search Institute in Minneapolis, explains that camp, especially, "is one of the few institutions where young people can experience and satisfy their need for physical activity, creative expression and true participation in a community environment."

Advocates for a balanced schedule claim that breaks throughout the school year allow students to recharge. However, students have breaks throughout the school year to relax, and breaks that span an entire week or longer take students' focus away and makes it difficult to transition back to waking up early and paying attention in classes for seven hours.

Those who feel that summer break is too long do not take into account the tremendous number of programs available to students to enrich their minds during the summer months, and the fact that many of the activities take place over the course of several weeks.

Students can use the freedom of summer to travel internationally for programs that offer an immersive learning environment of diverse cultures. They can spend time on college campuses to grow accustomed to the college atmosphere before moving away. They can earn money and pick up new skills from a job. They can ride a bike and spend time with friends, subconsciously acquiring social skills. Some students choose to spend the summer taking summer gym or other school courses, which helps them catch up or get ahead for the upcoming school year. Over break, students learn independence and skills they can directly apply to the real world, and they often return for their next school year as more mature and bright individuals. Summer has always been a time to explore and learn, and school boards must keep its importance in mind when discussing the possibility of adapting to a balanced schedule.

using your turn signal

EMMA PEARL

Life Editor

I would like to share with you a motto we should all live by: If you don't know how it works, don't touch it.

Now, I am not against the spirit of ingenuity or living and learning and all that jazz but some things should not be operated if the operator is an embarrassment. This life advice can fall into many categories, but as you may have already guessed, in this case we're talking about operating a vehicle. I hate to break it to you guys, but some of you are an embarrassment.

It seems to me that some of you are unaware that your automobiles contain this wild little lever on the side of the steering wheel. This magic lever can do many things, but the most important of this can potentially save people's lives. Someway, somehow, this little lever can signal to the driver behind you which way you plan to move your car. The best part: you do not have to say a word! No interaction involved!

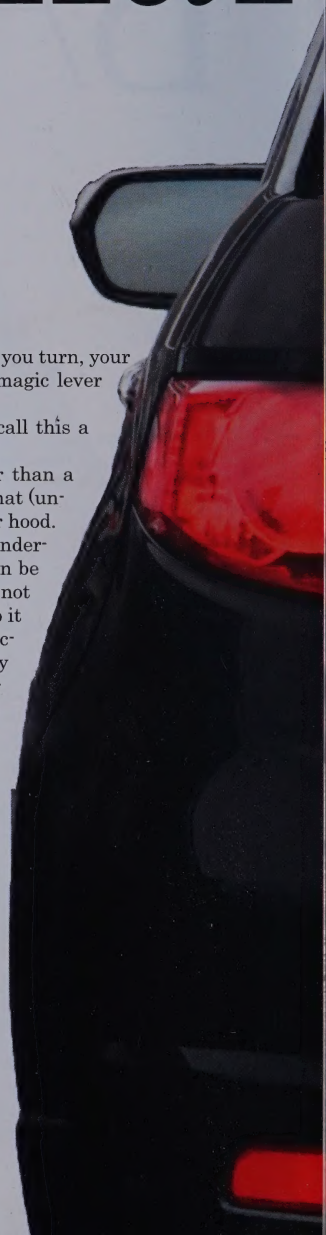
I know what you are thinking though...how can I use such a magical tool? Am I even worthy?
I have news for you! If you skated by with enough skill to pass your driving test and saved up enough money to purchase a vehicle, and then were brave enough to put that hunk of junk on the road, you are indeed worthy to use the magic lever!

Here is how it works: in order to let the person behind you know you are turning to the left, simply push down; in order to signal that you are turning right, push up. If it sweetens the pot for you a lil' bit, once you turn, your car will AUTOMATICALLY put the magic lever back into its original position!

(In some areas of the world, we call this a "blinker" or a "turn signal.")

Of course there is more to a car than a turn signal, and I think we all know that (unless you have never looked under your hood. Shame on you). But I need you all to understand how important a turn signal can be when you are behind the wheel. It is not an optional feature--you do not just do it because you feel like being nice. The actions of a driver oftentimes are heavily influenced by the actions of the driver in front of them. When a driver is not provided with cues from those in front of them, it can be hard to make decisions about where to be and when. Not only do you put others on the road in danger, but you are putting yourself in danger (i.e., when you do not signal but suddenly slow to a stop on the road, the driver behind you has no indications that they will need to avoid you and will continue full speed).

Use your magic lever. Save a life—maybe even your own.



08-21
INDIANA
200
HMSTED
BICENTENNIAL 1816-2016
29

Fort Wayne's Up and Coming

UMI Grill Sushi Bar

BY ALEXIS JORDAN

Online Editor

A new addition to the restaurants in Fort Wayne is Umi Grill Sushi Bar. Umi opened in Terre Haute in 2001, and the need to expand to other locations was quickly discovered. At Umi, consumers get to experience the Japanese culture while being with friends and enjoying delicious food.

The menu has a large range of food items such as sushi rolls, sashimi (raw fish, served with a very thin cut), signature fish dishes, a number of appetizers, noodles, entrees such as chicken teriyaki and a few special items, such as calamari.

PHOTO BY MASON COFFEE

"The Gyoza Dumpling appetizer is a must, and I would also recommend the Dr. Singh Roll and the Baked Scallop Roll," Kolby Swanson (11) said.

Swanson, along with Lauren Cunningham (11) both are employees of Umi. Swanson heard about the opening while at Mitchell's, a restaurant next store to Umi.

"I love it there," Swanson said. "Everyone is so nice and works well together."

Umi has a wonderful atmosphere, which is welcoming to everyone who enters. The design is modern with many beautiful paintings and artwork on the walls. They have elegant private booths for anyone who wants one, as well as a great variety of seating all over, including a bar for those 21 and over. The employees are very friendly and energetic. They love talking to everyone and letting the consumers enjoy the Japanese experience. The food is well prepared and the staff makes sure that it is to the consumers' full satisfaction.

I would highly recommend stopping by and checking out this new restaurant. The food is very good; I really liked the sushi rolls and a few of the fish entrees. The service was wonderful and efficient. The whole atmosphere was fun and clean, and a nice environment to have a sit down meal. The restaurant gets crowded very quickly, so it is important to make reservations before going and to expect a big crowd. Dress nice as well when going, as it is not just a fast, small restaurant but a formal dining area. As the menu has several food options, the prices vary. Overall, the experience is wonderful and the food is to die for, so gather some friends and dive in.

PHOTO BY KAYLEE YANOVICH

YUMMI BUNNI
ice cream and fro-yo

BY EMMA LEININGER

Opinion Editor

Yummi Bunni, the newest and most popular way for Fort Wayne townies to get their ice cream, has been all the rave since the beginning of December. Offering an assortment of ice cream crammed between two donuts, Yummi Bunni has caught the eye of foodies and social media fanatics all over town. But is the up and coming ice cream shop really all that?

While delicious and a great way to get your calories for the entire week, Yummi Bunni is neither innovative nor settling to the stomach. The business is young and still figuring out how to operate their facility, so errors are to be expected. However, Yummi Bunni is currently using Tom's Donuts as the supplier of their product and while this is a great way to get resources locally, the shop sometimes runs out. The ice cream sandwich that the long line of customers was eagerly waiting on is no longer available. Not only is this upsetting to a customer that has possibly been waiting in line for 10-15 minutes, but it is not good for the reputation of the business.

While using a donut shop is a completely rational and plausible way to supply the donuts at Yummi Bunni, younger generations long for something new and original. Yummi Bunni would be much more impressive if they made their own donuts or even their own ice cream. Right now, Yummi Bunni is simply just an imitation of other's products. However, this has not stopped multitudes of citizens from waiting in lines out the door in subzero temperatures.

Despite all of this, the merchandise that is being supplied certainly has appeal. From the hundreds of pictures on Instagram, it is clear that Yummi Bunni is a popular fad. However, if you see the double scoop sandwich on social media and think to yourself "oh yeah, I'm going to eat that entire thing," you are most definitely wrong. While not only being a sugar overload, the pure mass of the Yummi Bunni sandwich is a force to be reckoned with. On your fourth or fifth bite you are already starting to feel the effects of the donut and ice cream combo. By the time you have reached the final bites of the tasty treat you are most likely thinking that a trip to the gym is not only a good idea, but a necessity. The paired ice cream and donut is one of the most filling desserts you will ever encounter and sharing with a friend, or a couple, is advised.

While a lot can be said about the quality of the product, the atmosphere of the Yummi Bunni is vintage and picturesque. The ice cream parlor feel is inviting and the décor, from the pink LED bunny to the selfie wall filled with the Yummi Bunni logo is any photographer's and social media guru's dream.

Yummi Bunni has also nailed down a prime location to attract teenagers and adults alike. Sitting right next door to Coney Island, diners who have just finished their meal will be looking for a scrumptious dessert and Yummi Bunni is most definitely the answer to their prayers. The Yummi Bunni craze will most definitely not be going out of style anytime soon with a spot such as this one.

Although the Yummi Bunni might not be a place that one visits weekly, or even monthly for that matter, the young business is on the rise and its future is very bright.

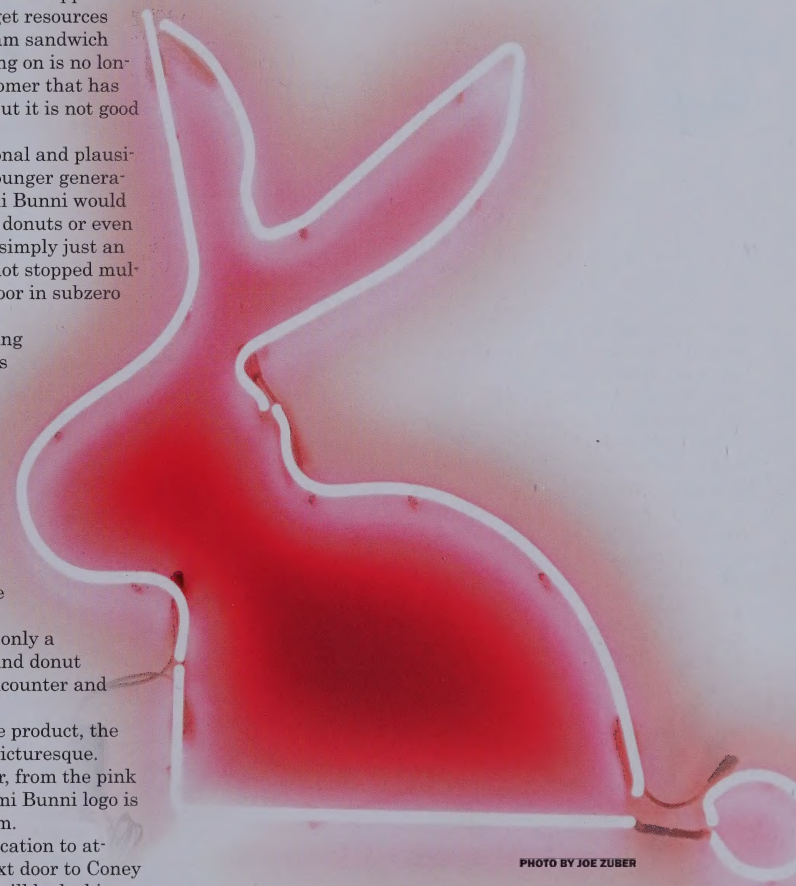


PHOTO BY JOE ZUBER

ARTWORK BY CHLOE BURFORD

spartana

april 2017

Table of Contents

LETTER TO THE EDITOR..... 3
REMEMBERING AARON STONE..... 4-5
DANCE MARATHON..... 6-7
LEAD THE WAY..... 8-9
HOW TO PROM..... 10-11
JUST DANCE..... 12-13
SPORT OF THE ART..... 14-15
TV SHOWS YOU NEED TO START WATCHING RIGHT NOW..... 16
MUST SEE UPCOMING CONCERTS.. 17
THE RING THING..... 18-19
PICKING UP THE BILL..... 20-21
CARROLL IS A GIRL'S NAME..... 22-23

Spartana Staff

Editor-In-Chief
Michal Spanjer

Copy Editor
Ethan Zweig

Online Editors
Lexi Jordan
Kaylee Yanovich

News Editor
Arika Akin

Opinion Editor
Emma Leininger

Life Editor
Emma Pearl

Writers
Lauren Berta
Lisa Chen
Jonathan Dauterman

Photograper
Winter Freeman

Adviser
Terri Nowak

Editorial Policy

The Spartana is a monthly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed. Southwest Allen County School corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be emailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Spartana Staff,

I am writing this letter in response to a few different articles that have appeared in the Spartana this school year. Please take the following from an objective, not subjective, viewpoint, as I will be focusing on the facts of the matter.

At the beginning of the year, there was an article written about the controversy concerning the leggings ban at the school. There was, apparently, a petition shared over Facebook that got enough signatures to technically be able to repeal the ban. The biggest problems with this are the following:

1. Since it was online, it wouldn't be difficult to create alt accounts and sign it more than once on two different accounts.

2. The number of signatures collected is enough to acquire an audience to repeal a legal bill, not a school dress code ban.

The article also, to a certain extent, threw Mr. Ginder under the bus for enforcing (notice how I didn't say creating) the leggings ban. The argument was, and still is, that the ban is sexist and discriminates against female students. I would first like to point out that it is not sexist. A male student wouldn't be allowed to wear leggings either, but I haven't seen leggings pick up as a male fashion trend. The ban is simply to protect the integrity of the school environment and make the school look acceptable to visitors. Also, I don't understand why there is any complaining happening anyways, as it's not like any of the teachers enforce the dress code. Trust me, I've called teachers out in the hallway every time they blatantly see a dress code violation and don't correct it. The common response is, "Well that isn't my job," so I'm not sure why people complain about the existence of the dress code.

My main complaint regarding that article is the blatant bias that is present throughout every word of the article. Journalism, unless stated otherwise, is meant to be unbiased and report the facts, not the feelings. This is not the first Spartana article that has blatant bias, and it certainly won't be the last.

Another example of an article with an extremely large amount of bias would be the one written in response to the outcome of the 2016 Presidential election. The article was, again, blatantly biased. The very beginning of the article was the author explaining that he believed that he would be telling Trump supporters to calm down (which we would've been calm anyways) and accept the results of the election. The article instead became the author describing how hard it was for him to say the same to his "fellow Hillary supporters." That's pretty biased and, frankly, unacceptable for an article in a magazine that wasn't marked as an opinion article. The article had one sentence that actually told Hillary supporters to calm down and accept the results of the election (and they didn't accept the results of the election anyways) which pretty much invalidates any type of equal treatment he was (supposedly) aiming for, or at least should have been aiming for.

Then there's the article about the inauguration. The really funny part about that article is that there wasn't one picture of the actual inauguration. All the pictures were of the Women's March. I believe, and I'm sure I'm not alone on this, that if you're going to write an article about the inauguration, then you should probably write the article about the inauguration. If you'd like to write an article about the Women's March, I would recommend writing an article about the Women's March, not the inauguration. By making an article that was supposed to be about the inauguration about the Women's March, you have successfully been extremely biased, again.

While there are other examples, these are the main three that stuck out for me. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, and I would appreciate if my statements would be considered when writing the next edition of the Spartana.

Sincerely,

Sarah Russell

As a staff, we would like to thank you for your letter, Sarah.

When writing a news article, such as the dress code story from our first issue this year, we allow quotations from a variety of sources (most importantly, from our school's students and staff) to shape the article. The opinions we quote in the magazine do not necessarily align with our own beliefs. We simply try to represent the voices of different members of our school in order to highlight the events and issues affecting the school at that time.

We try to do the same with the pictures we pair with our stories by presenting the diversity of activities members of the school are doing. In terms of the inauguration story, we used pictures that students had taken on their cell phones of their trip to President Trump's inauguration, while also including pictures other students had sent us of their experiences in the Women's March.

Opinion stories, like the election aftermath article, give students an outlet to articulate their concerns with issues that affect the school, or a larger community. We differentiate this type of article by marking them as opinion at the bottom of the left page of the spread. We understand that not everyone agrees with the viewpoints we express in these articles, and they are often controversial, but we spend time talking as a staff about how to approach these topics, and we write and edit them in hopes that readers will keep an open mind and consider our argumentation.

We appreciate your concern and we hope our response helps you understand our goals as a publication.

Sincerely,

The Spartana Staff

Aaron Stone

1998-2017

Those who stay and those who go

A TRIBUTE BY KELSEY BATT

"So long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now a part of us, as we remember them."

The day after he died, it snowed. It was the type of snow that school children allow themselves to become excited about when they see the weathermen on TV, predicting that it will come down in large swaths, coating the streets.

I remember being taken out by my dad on a day like that, nearly two years ago, right after I'd first heard the news that Aaron was ill. Everything had an icy white layer to it, with the neighborhood roads being no exception. As we slid down the street my dad advised me to try to stop. Tentatively, I placed my foot on the break and pressed down with all of my might. The car careened forward, stopping perhaps 10 feet after the point of break.

I learned that day that should a car ever slip out of my control, despite what instinct tells you, it is actually better to pump the breaks in order to gain the desired traction. Sometimes though, no matter what you do, the outcome is ultimately beyond your control. You just try to do the best that you can.

Fast forward to a Sunday night of this past March, when I first heard about Aaron's death. The news felt like a punch to my stomach. I realized in an instant how much time had passed since I had last seen his face and found myself settling with the fact that I never will have the chance to see him again.

So caught up in my own life, I had forgotten about the kid I used to call a friend.

I knew that he was struggling.

Yet, somehow, I hadn't known that he was dying. Maybe I hadn't been doing my best, after all.

At the visitation, a slow procession of friends, family, and acquaintances lined up, waiting to speak to the parents. A series of pictures that had probably decorated the Stone family living room were instead slapped on posters all around the Peace United Church on the street where we used to walk home from school. Maddie and I wore dresses, one black, the other a dark blue. We leafed through the photos and talked to one another quietly, looking a bit like a bruise.

Familiar band t-shirts lined the wall. A temporary tattoo station was set up in the corner and conversation snippets were full of fond memories- everywhere, there were signs of Aaron. It felt like he might come through the doors at any moment and start talking to the first person who caught his eye.

Vivacity is contagious, and when it came to a lively personality, that kid had it going for him.
When we finally made our way up to Mr. and Mrs. Stone I found that it was me and not them who seemed to be needing the tissues. Looking at his father, for just a splinter of a moment I saw the boy I had spent four semesters trying to keep up with, punch line after punch line.

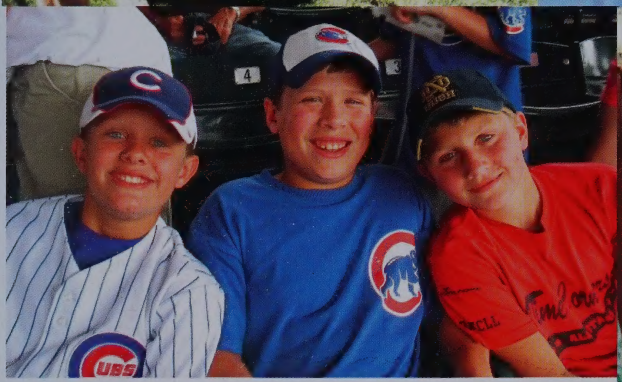
"I remember when you girls used to come around!" Mr. Stone greeted us warmly. When I burst into tears, he simply hugged me, saying "tomorrow is the happy day, tomorrow is the happy day!" referring to the scheduled Celebration of Life.

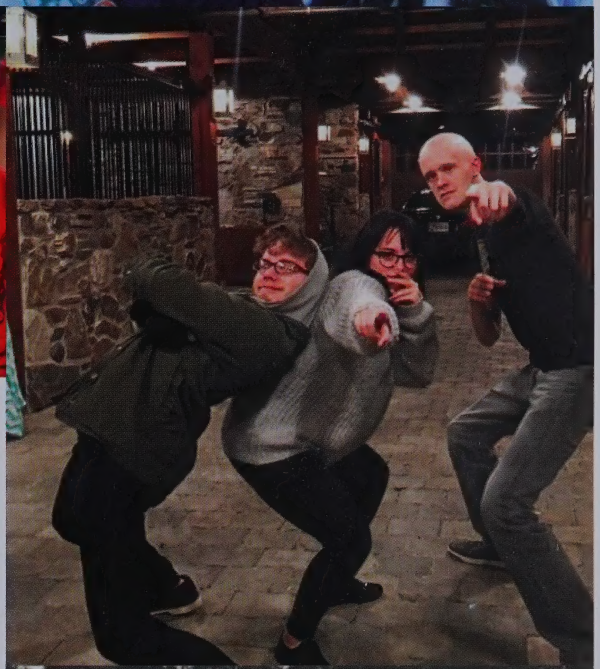
Yeah right, I thought.

And who the hell was I to deserve his comforting, anyways…

Yet while I concentrated on getting air back into my lungs, the thought occurred to me that maybe I had been going about this all wrong. All of the good memories I have with him, and all of the wonderful, unique things that made Aaron Aaron- his wit, his character, the way he would tell a joke, his love for My Chemical Romance, and Outback's Blooming Onion.

Unlike myself, this was a kid who lived his life unapologetically, without trepidation, and ultimately, to the fullest. I am lucky to have known him, and better for it. "So long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now a part of us, as we remember them."





When I think of Aaron Stone, I immediately think of three things: his musical talent, his bravery, and his incredible sense of humor. Aaron was an accomplished drummer and also learned to play the guitar & the ukulele. He was a part of several bands and performed several concerts in the area. He loved music and he was very good at it. I knew "Stoney" back when he was merely an elementary student. I remember when he first began staying the night at my house with our son Brady. Aaron could never quite get over the fear of staying in another home and would usually come down at midnight and ask to call his mom. However, that childhood fear developed into a bravery that was amazing. Aaron faced cancer with a bravery that is hard to believe. He faced a 14 hour surgery, 44 weeks of original chemotherapy plus other rounds of chemotherapy, a study for a new drug, weeks in Arizona attempting to beat cancer with alternative medicines, and much more. Through all of this, Aaron kept fighting. He never seemed down. I know he had times of fear and frustration, but he never let those around him see this. He showed others what it means to fight. And he did all of this while never losing his sense of humor. For those who really knew Aaron, they were quite aware of his sharp wit and sense of humor that was far beyond his years. He could make others laugh at the drop of a hat. Aaron was an amazing person and, although he is gone from this earth, he has left a lasting impression on all who knew him well.

- Shawn Harkness, History Teacher

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MATTHEW KILLHAM AND ADAM SCHENKEL

Dance

ALEXIS JORDAN

Online Editor

After months of preparation the student directors and staff pulled off one of the biggest events of this semester. Starting all the way back in September, the dance marathon crew held their first meeting, where this was all just an idea. Soon enough, it became something so much bigger than they had ever expected.

"Experiencing the reveal of our final total after seven months of hard work and six hours of seeing an amazing event felt like a dream come true, " Jodi Camino (11) said.

In September, Alyssa Braman, counselor, came to the student government to express the idea of having a dance marathon. After much discussion, a meeting was held for anyone in the school who was interested and soon enough roles were signed to each student who wished to help set the event up. They had to take trips to Indy to attend conventions, where they learned what was required in order to host the dance marathon, as well as how to go about fundraising. The students then started working with companies, such as Chick-Fil-A, where they would have percent nights in order to get the community involved in the fundraising. They also partnered with Ball State, who recently hosted their own dance marathon. As the months quickly went by they kicked it up a notch by hosting a gala, which raised more money toward the hospital, and then finally ended with the actual dance marathon.

"I was exhilarated when I saw the total amount fundraised," Chandler Sansone (12) said. "I could not be prouder of all the people that help make this night happen."

The time had finally come for the work and time put into 8 months of work to come together. As the hours grew shorter, the excitement began to grow among all the dancers participating and the energy exploded into the room when the night began. Flashes of light shot all over the gymnasium as students began jumping, cheering and dancing to the DJ. One side of the room was filled with corn hole bags being thrown back and forth to see who could rise to the top, while a serious game of Twister was happening right behind them. The camera flashed as students lined up to get their picture with the Riley photo booth, while others snapped pictures of the crazy dance moves on the dance floor. The night was strictly no sitting, so the participants stood for about 7 hours in support of those who cannot.

"I love to dance and after hearing all the stories from the Riley families, I just love supporting their cause," Jonathan Pappas (11) said.

Among with all the fun and activities, the night was dedicated to the Riley families that joined the Spartans that night. There were four families who had children who are apart of the Riley family for various reasons. They each took turns telling their extraordinary experiences with the hospital and told of the fantastic hospitality and care each employee showed.

"Being there at the event and hearing the stories of the families gave an amazing reminder right in front of our eyes of why we were doing what we were doing," Regan Jones (11) said.

It was a night to remember as the school came together as one in support for one of the largest children's hospitals in the nation and had fun doing so. The fundraising goal for the event was only $25,000 but, with much surprise, the total ended up being $34,563.50. There were tears and smiles across everyone's faces while screams and cheers echoed through the gymnasium. The first ever dance marathon was a huge success and a great experience, and its spirit will live on in the school for years to come.

Marathon

Developments in **Project Lead The Way**

Jonathan Dauterman

Writer

Project Lead the Way (PLTW) is an organization that develops courses and curriculum for STEM field programs in public schools. The school has improved its approach to PLTW in the past year, and it now guides dozens of students who have varying interests and ambitions, in developing skills that will help them in their future careers.

PLTW is broken into a series of classes, where advanced concepts and curriculum are applied to individual fields, giving students a diversity of choices of subjects in the STEM field.

"Project Lead the Way is an organization that started as a series of classes to teach engineering skills," Nate Dauterman (12) said. "We have the current set of classes where you learn Biomed, Programing and Engineering."

The different types of PLTW classes allow for students that want to go into the STEM field to gain experience in what particular parts of the STEM field they want to specialize in; it also allows teachers well-versed in STEM subjects to teach subjects with which they are familiar.

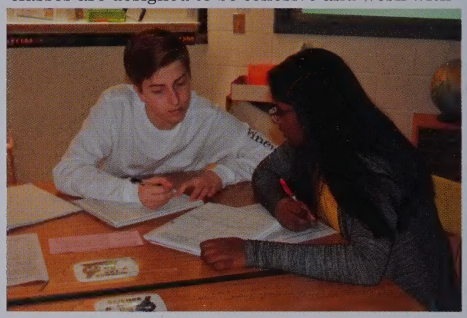
"In the biomed program, most kids are interested in medicine of some kind," Kimberly Crawford, biomed teacher, said. She acknowledged that many students within her classes are looking at a wide range of careers in medicine, extending from veterinarians to surgeons.

PLTW defines itself in its accessibility; any freshmen who are remotely interested in engineering, computer science or medicine within Homestead are encouraged to take the respective classes.

One thing especially notable about all the PLTW classes is that none of them are designed to be stand-alone. Dauterman described how classes that are part of the program tend to build off of one another.

"Probably what I like the most is that each year you take, you learn more skills," Dauterman said. "You don't learn something brand new."

For example, freshmen taking PLTW-sponsored computer science classes will learn basic modeling software, but next year, they will learn how to use different types of math within programming. The classes are designed to be cohesive and work with one-another.



Jake Petrill (9) and Carrine Kogulan (9) work together on an assignment in Nathan Arata's Biomed class.

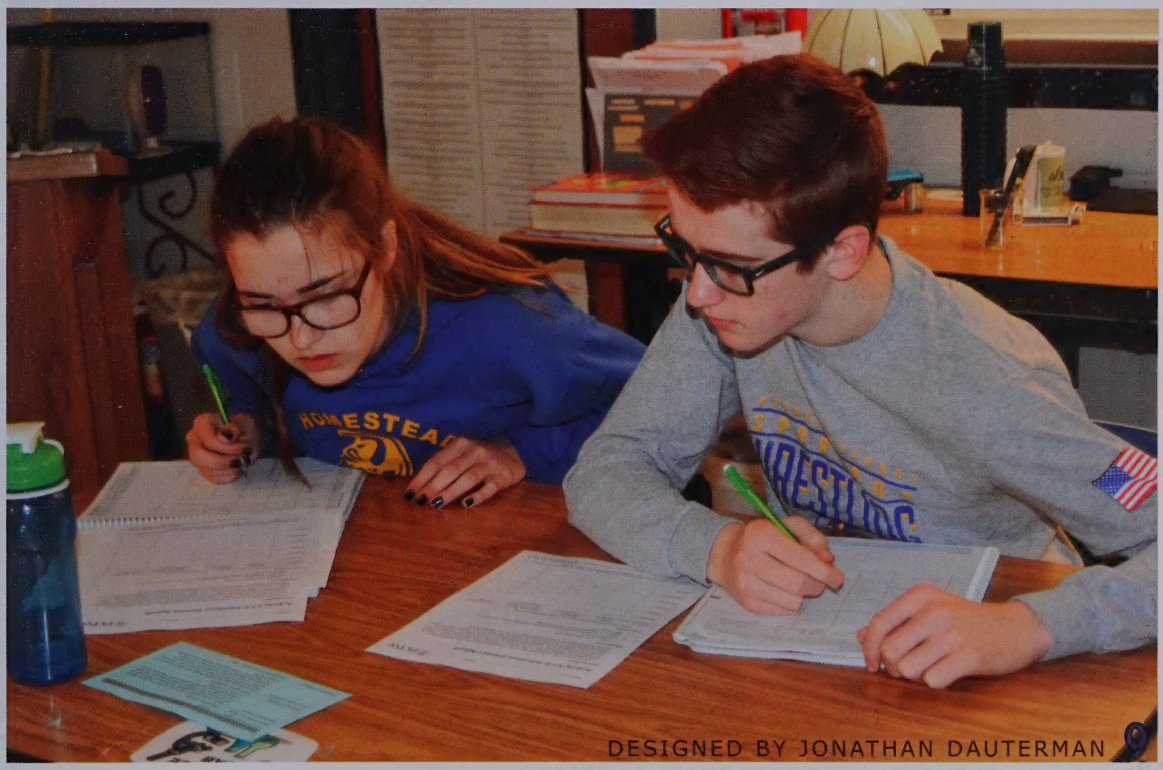
The PLTW program also stands out for trying to modernize itself compared to other classes. PLTW is very student-oriented compared to the normal classroom. A teacher will give the students instructions on what task they have to do, and help guide them in accomplishing that task.

"They become really motivated and responsible," Crawford said. Crawford noted how group projects, exercises and tasks in her biomed classes were the norm. These types of activities help students ease into the concept of working alongside their peers towards a common goal.

PLTW has many courses heavily involving computers, regardless of whether or not the course is related to computer science, in an attempt to teach students how to use their knowledge in a relevant manner and get a grasp on 21st century skills that will benefit them in the future.

PHOTOS BY MICHAL SPANJER

Above, from left to right, Cutter Mask (9), Jadyn Pugh (9) and Carson Tranter (9) discuss how to figure out which disease they are looking at. Below, Sasha Kunkle (9) and Blake Mast (9) read over the description of a different disease.



DESIGNED BY JONATHAN DAUTERMAN

how to: PROM

Step One: The Promposal

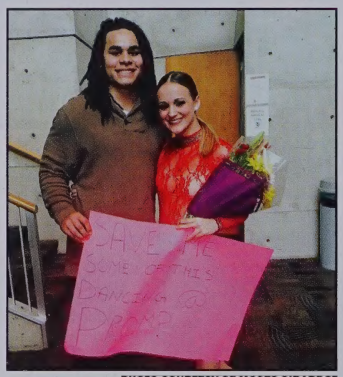


PHOTO COURTESY OF MOSES GIRARDOT

SPORTS: If your person plays a sport, this is a super cute and semi-personalized way to ask them to prom. Use a piece of equipment or just a pun, or if you really want, use both! Personalize it to the best you can, maybe using their number or position. Combining something they love with someone they love (hopefully!) is a for sure way to get your date.

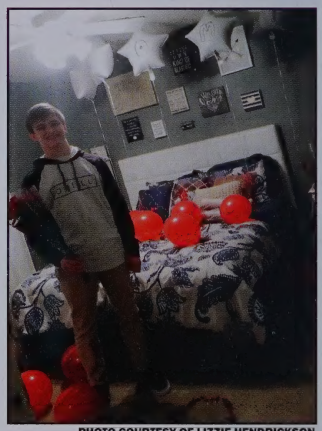


PHOTO COURTESY OF LIZZIE HENDRICKSON

MOVIES: If you and your girl (or boy!) love to watch movies or TV shows, this is perfect. Take a significant plot, quote, or character and make it into something flirty and fun to ensure yourself a date. If you want to get really creative, use lyrics from the opening song in a TV show or a classic song from a movie to spice up your promposal.

FOOD: If your future date has a sweet tooth or you know their favorite foods, use this to your advantage and be creative! You can go for the classic pun or step it up a notch with some chocolate and maybe even flowers. Above all else, most people will probably say yes just with the bribery of food, creative question or not.

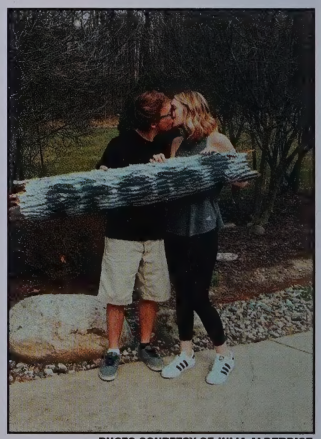


PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIA ALDERDICE

Step Two: Preparation

THE DRESS: Some wonderful dress stores nearby are David's Bridal, Wendy's Bridal, and Lillian's Prom & Tuxedo.

THE TUX: Louie's Tux Shop, Rogers Formal Wear, and Men's Warehouse are the best spots in Fort Wayne to get a tux.

MAKEUP: The Forum Salon & Day Spa, Sephora, and Adler J. are fantastic places to get your makeup done for the special day.

HAIR: Some popular salons around town are Mark of Distinction, The Hair Dept., Pin-Up Curls, or Studio 116 Hair Design.

Step Three: Reservations

Going to dinner before the dance is imperative for a perfect night. Be sure to make reservations early, because everyone will be going to dinner on the same night, and most likely will be choosing a lot of the same restaurants. Whlie of course you want a nice dinner, don't blow your budget! We have compiled a list of popular places that are just fancy enough for the occasion: Umi, Biaggi's, Black Canyon, Baker Street, Don Hall's Gas House, Takaoka, Casa's, Eddie Merlot's, The Golden, Tolon, and Junk Ditch.

PHOTO BY ALEXIS JORDAN

Step 4: Prom Night

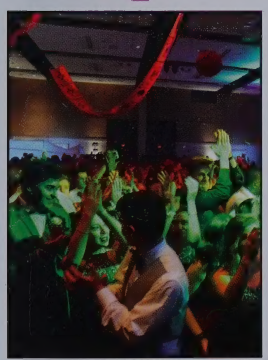


PHOTO BY ALANA HAUPERT

DO:

- Take tons of pictures
- Dance
- Make after prom plans
- Have as much fun as you can
- Wear comfortable shoes
- Plan ahead
- Bring your ticket / student ID
- Go with a group

DON'T:

- Dance with someone who isn't your date
- Worry too much
- Eat too much
- Have your expectations set too high
- Be boring. Dance!
- Stress your about your appearance
- Skip the slow dances
- Overspend!

Just Dance

LISA CHEN

Writer

While the dance season has ended, the dance team has enjoyed one of their most successful years and worked hard to reach their goals.

"This season was by far one of our best and most memorable seasons," Britney Lombardo, coach, said. "The work ethic from everybody was something that I have not seen in the four years that I've been here."

At nationals in Orlando the team won runner-up in varsity jazz and only lost by less than a point. Varsity hip hop reached their goal of making it to the final round and placed 12th. Additionally, JV jazz placed third in the nation and JV hip hop won second.

"When I look back on the season, I will remember nationals the most," Alayna Kriegel (12) said. "Getting second at nationals was a huge deal because we have much more competition than in the state. All the memories we made there were awesome."

To add to their wins this season, the team also took home state championships in the varsity large and small ensemble.

"Winning state in the small ensemble category this year was hands down one of the best high school experiences I will ever have," Afua Addo (12) said. "To see all our hard work put in throughout the year pay off at the most important and final competition was amazing."

The combined state championships by the ensembles marks a rare accomplishment.

"[It] rarely happens for both categories to come with a state title together," Addo said.

The small ensemble consisted of all seniors, making the win even better.

"I've been a part of the dance season for over seven years and finally getting a state championship as a senior means more than anything," Kriegel said.

Ending with a state championship provided an unforgettable finish to the year.

"It was the best way to end our final season," Addo said.

Furthermore, at state, the team won third in varsity and JV jazz and second in JV hip hop.

"We're working for a first place, but ultimately it should be about the feeling and how they left the floor," Lombardo said. "If they left everything out and they felt like they don't have any more to give, then I told them they already succeeded. At state, every performance was left on the floor."

Throughout the season, the team has grown together and become extremely close with each other.

"Speaking for the varsity team, all of us now have a close bond with each other where we can have fun, joke around, laugh with each other, or at each other's expense and still become serious when it's time to get work done," Addo said. "The Homestead dance program as a whole, both Varsity and JV teams, have become closer as well and created bonds that make it even harder for us seniors to leave at the end of this year."

Through the leaders of the seniors, the team was able to work together.

"Our seniors had amazing leadership," Lombardo said. "They were great role models and there are big shoes to fill."

The senior class has left a tremendous impact on the team through their guidance.

"I've grown as a leader and I think us seniors leave a team in great hands because of the influence we have had," Kriegel said.

Make sure to congratulate the dance team on their achievements this season!

JV Jazz

PHOTO COURTESY OF AFUA ADDO

Large and small essemble state champions

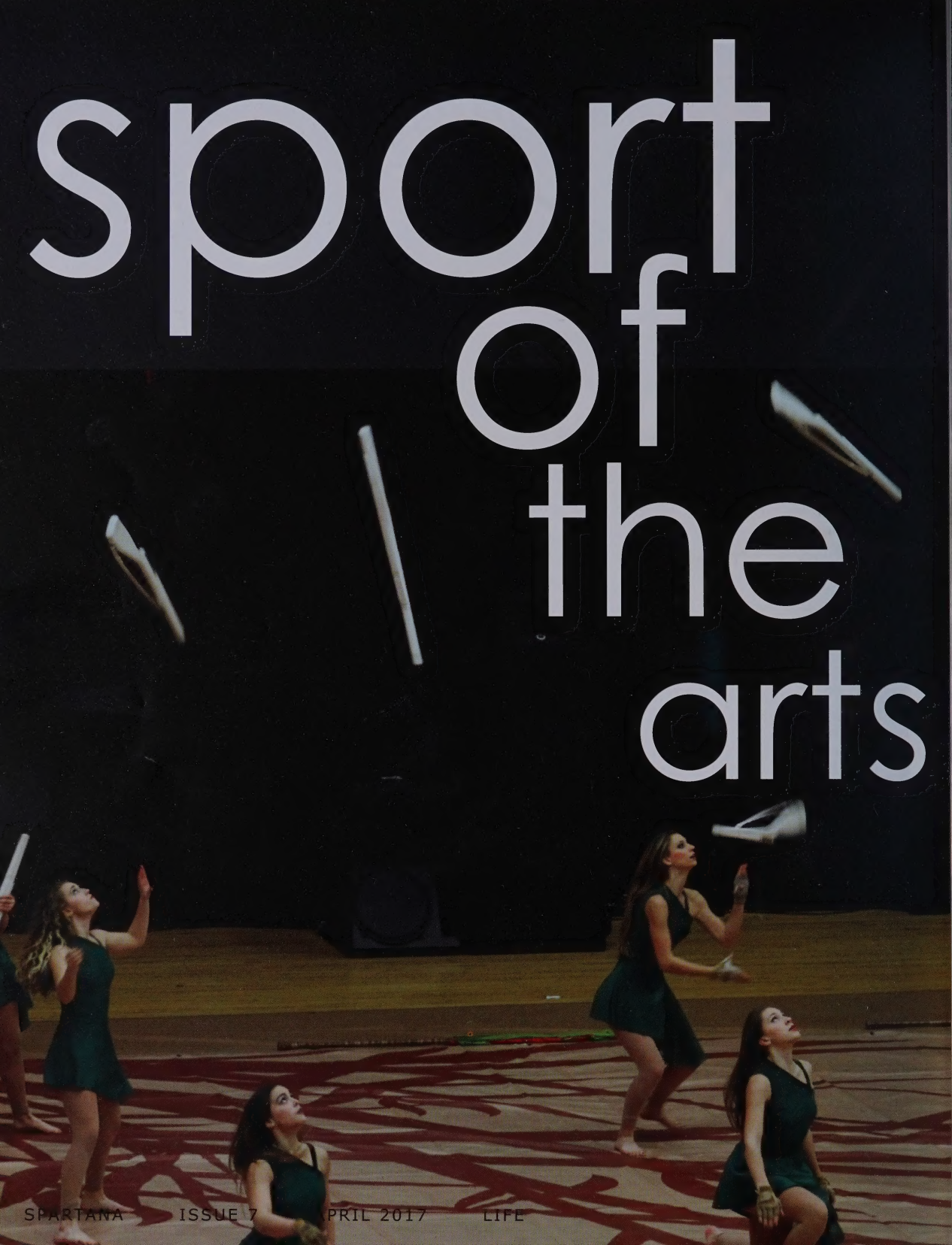
Varsity Hip Hop

JV Hip Hop

PHOTO TAKEN BY KELLY ASIALA

Raegan Casey (11) performs during the varsity jazz dance at the Homestead Dance Competition.

sport of the arts



Winter guard members Dana Luu (12), Hannah Burns (11) and Racheal Piel (10) perform their state-winning performance during the team's preview night.

LAUREN BERTA

Writer

"We came into the season clueless of how we would turn out," Dana Luu (12) said.

Turns out, they're state champs. The team captured their title March 18, edging out top nationally ranked Fishers by .8 of a point. They are the first winter guard in the history of Homestead to win state.

"We had done it in the memory of our beloved Mrs. Barber and I knew how proud she must be of us," Luu said.

It was surreal for the girls.

"Going to state is always the goal," Kirah Wesley (11) said. "I think the raw determination of just wanting to do better than last year is the drive of many, especially our seniors."

Those six seniors, Dana Luu, Courtney Roop, Lauren Bond, Whitney Capps, Madison Dornseif and Cassidy Rybolt, have been crucial to the team's success through their leadership role.

"A big part of being a senior is keeping people motivated to become better as a team and improve how they perform under pressure," Roop said.

Those six girls have proven themselves to be exceptionally talented.

"With the seniors as leaders, the bar is set extremely high," Luu said.

The significance of the seniors is certainly underscored by the strong relationships the girls have on the team. Many of these girls have known each other for all four years and have formed incredibly close connections.

"I believe not only our friendship but also our spiritual bond is unmatched," Luu said.

With the hours of practice, the girls put in and the intense amount of time they spend together, it is no wonder they walk away with such strong relationships.

"Everyone needs to be identical in their movements and our bodies need to memorize those actions and fluidity," Hailey Galvan (11) said.

Their coordination suggests an understanding of each other that is unrivaled by other activities that lay claim to artistry and athleticism.

The strength of the team has definitely shown in their success this season. Never before has the team gone to state with their current instructor, Jonathan Meader.

"[Meader] really pressures us to always be present at rehearsal and to just get out there and show the world our hard work," Luu said.

He designs the theme and choreography for winter guard.

This year the theme centers around "the thought of leaving somebody without saying goodbye" Roop said.

The theme touches many of the winter guard girls personally.

"The theme I believe is very emotional and everyone in the guard has had the feeling," Wesley said. "Bringing up that state of mind during the show has made us successful."

The success of the group is certainly a reflection of the hard work they put in.

The "whole group is progressively getting better with skills and confidence," Galvan said.

Between Meader and the strength of the team this year, the winter guard is doing better than it ever has before.

"Jonathan told us that he can't promise us competitive success, but he can guarantee that our season is what we make of it," Luu said.

TV SHOWS
YOU NEED TO START WATCHING
RIGHT NOW

MICHAL SPANJER
Editor-in-Chief

Wednesdays on ABC
Number of Seasons 1

Every year, one member of Congress does not attend the State of the Union Address, in case something is to happen to the Capital. In the pilot of this show, the Capitol is bombed during the Address, and the "designated survivor," Tom Kirkman, is sworn in as president that night. The intensity of each episode keeps viewers on the edge of their seats, wondering who bombed the Capital and how the new president will solve this mystery while juggling his new duties as Commander-in-Chief. With shocking twists and turns, this fascinating new thriller is must-watch for anyone looking for an addicting new show to binge watch.

Tuesdays on NBC
Number of Seasons 1

The pilot of This Is Us introduces viewers to new parents who learn that one of their triplets died during birth, an actor who decides to quit his job on a TV show and move to New York, an obese woman whose weight has haunted her for her entire life and a man who finally finds his biological father, who left him at a firestation the day he was born. The show, which began airing in September, centers on the humor and drama in the present-day lives of the characters, and flashes back to reveal more about their past. This incredibly captivating depiction of human emotions and experiences features familiar yet completely original plotlines.

Mondays on The CW
Number of Seasons 2

The premise of this show centers on Superman's long-lost cousin, Kara Zor-El, who left Krypton to protect her baby cousin, but was lost in the Phantom Zone for 13 years. After she escaped and made it to Earth, the Danvers family adopted Kara to protect her. Kara kept her superhuman abilities a secret until she had to protect her adoptive sister, Alex, from an airplane crash. She then decided to use her powers in a similar fashion to Superman, fighting evil, including corrupt aliens, around the city while simultaneously working as a reporter. Kara joins her sister in protecting alien life on Earth with the Department of Extranormal Operations. This action-packed, yet lighthearted, show puts a modern (and feminine) twist on Superman.

Must See Upcoming Concerts

WINTER FREEMAN
Writer

Sam Hunt
June 2 $$
Klipsch Music Center in Noblesville
This country and contemporary R&B artist is headed to Indiana with opening acts Maren Morris and Chris Janson, on the 15 In A 30 Tour.

Train
June 29 $$$
Klipsch Music Center in Noblesville
This rock and pop group, best known for their songs 50 Ways to Say Goodbye and Drive By, will be performing with opening acts O.A.R and Natasha Bedingfield.

One Republic
July 13 $$$
Klipsch Music Center in Noblesville
This pop and alternative rock band will perform some of the most iconic songs of the past decade on their tour this summer.

Green Day
August 16 $$
Klipsch Music Center in Noblesville
Known best for their American Idiot album, this band is stopping in Indiana on their tour with opening acts Catfish and The Bottleman.

Lady Gaga
November 5
$$$$
Bankers Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis
After a stunning performance at the Superbowl, this eccentric pop superstar is headed to Indianapolis this fall as part of her Joanne World Tour.

Kings of Leon
August 19 $
Klipsch Music Center in Noblesville
This rock band from the 90s is headed to Indiana this summer as part of their tour for their new album, WALLS.

John Mayer
September 3 $$
Klipsch Music Center in Noblesville
This pop singer with an R&B feel is stopping in Indiana on The Search For Everything Tour.

Ed Sheeran
September 8 $$$$
Bankers Life Field House in Indianapolis
This English singer and songwriter will be performing in Indianapolis on his first American headlining tour.

Tim McGraw and Faith Hill
September 9 $$$
Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne
This iconic country couple is coming to Fort Wayne for their Soul2Soul tour.

Bruno Mars
August 13 $$$$
Bankers Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis
Jam out to all the songs from Bruno Mars' newest album, along with his classics, at his 24K Magic World Tour this summer.

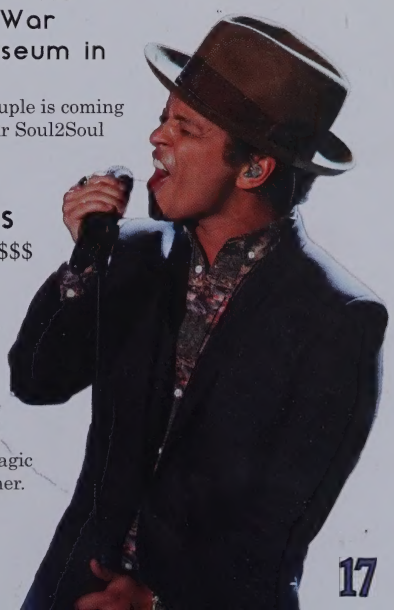


PHOTO BY ARIKA AKIN

The Ring Thing

ARIKA AKIN

NEWS EDITOR

In the interest of transparency I will admit that this article is not the article that I intended it to be. Before I started writing I was under the assumption that those who chose to spend money, money that I then considered frivolous, on expensive class rings, expensive letterman jackets and the "Seniors 2017" merch were misguided. The only thing I thought of was how they would only wear these items for a few years, and that after this these dusty relics would be relegated, useless, to be backs of closets. Now, I may not be wrong in declaring that they would remain unworn, but I was wrong in that they would become useless.

Mementos are incredibly important in our capitalistic society and that people place value in trinkets and memorabilia is undeniable. Just look at the tourism industry; would it be at all possible for companies like Disney or Universal Studios to rake in as much cash as they do had they not convinced people that a vacation is not a vacation without a souvenir? The prom industry is another stellar example of this with girls spending, on average, over $200 on a dress that they plan to wear for only one night, and that's not even counting shoes, hair, nails, dinner, pictures or tickets, which add to the expense.

Now, these things are not to say that mementos are a design of money-hungry industries; this is to say that if we spend so much to remember vacations, which last only days or weeks, why do we criticize those who spend money to remember high school? High school lasts for years and is quite the time of change in the lives of most adolescents; though some of us may wish to forget the place, but never the people, some will claim in years and years that this was the best time in their lives, and who was I to judge someone for spending money on something that they wish to remember?

I think at first that the reason I judged people who spend, in my mind, exorbitant amounts of money on rings and jackets that they would never wear after graduation was because I, for some reason, considered myself above paying money for overpriced apparel that I saw as an obvious way for companies to attempt to profit off of those who had bought into the so-called "high school experience" and who wished to be able to relive their glory years. However, how could I possibly attempt to put a price on people's desires? On people's memories? I have my own fair share of dusty mementoes cluttering up my room which I haven't yet given away and my choice to spend my money on these does not make me morally superior to those who choose to spend theirs on class rings.

Of course, there is a certain point where too much money can be spent on some memento; if a memento leaves you or your family in dire financial straits it was probably not the best idea to buy. However, if you have the money and you wish to spend it, why not spend it on something that matters to you? And if high school matters to you then feel free to invest in mementoes such as class rings and letterman jackets.

Picking up the bill

EMMA LEININGER

Opinion Editor

Let's hear a story that is all too familiar. You go on a date and you get to that point in the night where the bill is placed on the table. You then ask yourself, "Should they pay? Should I pay? Should we split?"

The answer is quite simple. First and foremost, you should never ever, ever expect the other party to pay. If they have offered to pay you may choose to accept this kind offer, or you may offer to pay your half. Unless you have already implied that you will, if the other party expects you to pay, I suggest not going on that second date.

If you have been in a relationship for a significant amount of time, it is alright to split the bill. This may not be considered the "traditional" way of paying for a date, but if one party continually pays for every outing, this can not only put financial strain on said party, but stress on the relationship.

Secondly, a simple tip for those who do not have jobs: if you are unable to pay for a date due to your economic situation, stay in. Staying in is a perfectly acceptable date and often times more enjoyable than going to an expensive movie or fancy dinner. If you are really longing to get out of the house, ask your parents for money. While this can be "cringy," I assure you it is a better option than expecting your date to pay. Also, this unappealing experience of asking your parents for money may prompt you to get a job (which may not be the worst thing in the world).

If both parties are really struggling with trying to decide who should pay, the decision may come down to this: who asked who to go out? Often, when deciding who should pay, it can be as simple as the person who asked to go out should be the person to pay. This is an unpretentious and effective way to decide who pays the bill without the awkward conversation.

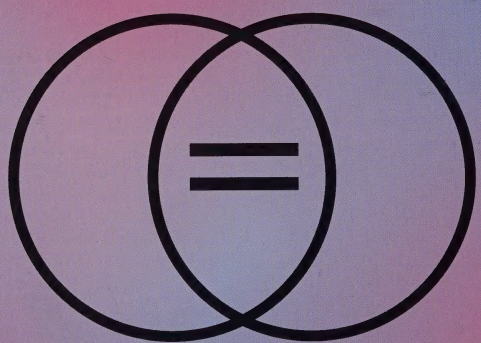
Bottom line is, no one person really loves to pay 40 dollars for a date for two. But since the occasional going out promotes emotional strength in a relationship, who pays the bill should really be taken into consideration.

If one party is always insistent on paying, then there is less stress for you. However, I suggest always offering to chip in. Even if this is just as a courtesy, as you are aware your partner is persistent, it is nice to let them know that you do not expect them to pay every time the two of you go out. Another great option is to create a system in which you alternate who pays on dates. This is a great way to continue going out while easing tension in a relationship.

CARROLL IS A GIRL'S NAME?

EMMA PEARL

Life Editor



the issue:

As many of you recall, after some shouting at last year's pep session, there was major controversy about the fact that we insult our rivals by saying "Carroll is a girl's name." Now, the issue was not that we shouldn't be trash-talking our opponents. In the spirit of high school sports, this is completely natural and typically in good fun. Rather, the issue lies within the fundamental implications of the phrase.

Now, you may be thinking to yourself, "but Emma, Carroll IS a girl's name." And you would be right. However! When your intentions move from simply stating facts to using these facts as an insult, that is where the problem lies. What you're implying here is to have a girl's name is something to be ashamed of, that femininity is shameful. This, of course, implies to be feminine is to be lesser-- masculine, superior.

I wish I did not have to spell it out, but that's sexist.

This is, perhaps, where you will roll your eyes once more and write off this article because some feminist wrote it and you're not in the mood to read a rant about sexism when you'd like to live in your little bubble and believe that it does not exist in the world around you because this is America and everything is perfect here and women can own property blah blah blah. And while it's true that the level of sexism we see in America today is significantly lower than it has been in the past, or lower than it is in other parts of the world, there are still any number of issues to contend with.

Unfortunately for us, the whole Carroll-is-a-girl's-name thing is one of them.

now:

At this point in time, you are no longer using this as a sort of ridiculous insult, at this point, it is not about Carroll anymore. Now, you say it because it's the forbidden fruit of appropriate language at the school. You say it because throwing it into a conversation makes you feel like you're getting away with something, like you have this inside joke with the entire student body and you just want to stick it to the administration and stick it to those brave girls who stood up for women.

To many students, the phrase has no effect on them anymore. There is the absent-minded recognition that they are probably not supposed to say it, but many do not care or do not know why. When the MCs at the Variety Show slipped it into their skits, we said nothing. We knew what they were doing.

But we have become numb.

And this is not okay. Becoming numb to the phrase is normalizing sexism, normalizing things that attack women, the little things here and there excused because they are little. However, little words become big issues, and these aggressions and ignorant prejudices are the things that convince people, convince women, that they are not deserving of respect.

We have planted the seed of a dangerous flower, allowing it to root itself in our minds, in our beliefs, in our principles.

And we roll our eyes.

When the time came for senior quotes, and it was explicitly stated that "Carroll is a girl's name" was not a valid entry, we laughed it off, and questioned why they even had to include it before remembering that there were still the students milking it for all its worth. There were still the students cleverly claiming that "Carmel is a candy's name," getting away with it even though its conception was to remind students of the controversy, to make them laugh about the events that transpired, and to unwittingly rub feminist faces in the dirt.

As untimely as this article may feel, the fact that I am still hearing the phrase almost every day enforces that something needed to be said.

But you're right...it's getting old, guys.

ISTEP+ Bell Schedule

Tuesday, April 18

Period 1 7:45-8:22
Period 2 8:28-9:05
Period 3 9:11-9:50
Period 4 9:56-10:33
Period 5 10:39-11:15
Adv 11:21-1:17
- A 11:15-11:42 (Sophomores)
- B 11:45-12:12 (Freshmen)
- C 12:15-12:42 (Juniors)
- D 12:45-1:11 (Seniors)

Period 6 1:17-1:53
Period 7 1:59-2:35

Students can find the alternate schedules for ISTEP+ testing on their Canvas dashboards.

spartana

march 2017

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3: Destination: The Land of Ice and Fire
4-5: Mrs. Matheis
6-7: Robot vs Rope
9: State (Gymnastics)
10-11: I Believe That We... (Girls Basketball)
12-13: Quiz: Which Teacher are You?
14: New Clubs Increase Political Activism
15: The News on Tattoos
16-17: We Should be Talking About Sex
18-19: Lego Batman Movie: Charming but not Stupendous

Spartana Staff

Editor-in-Chief
Michal Spanjer

Copy Editor
Ethan Zweig

Online Editors
Lexi Jordan
Kaylee Yanovich

News Editor
Arika Akin

Opinion Editor
Emma Leininger

Life Editor
Emma Pearl

Writers
Lauren Berta
Lisa Chen
Jonathan Dauterman

Photograper
Winter Freeman

Adviser
Terri Nowak

Editorial Policy

The Spartana is a monthly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed. Southwest Allen County School corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be emailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

DESTINATION:
The Land of Ice and Fire

ALEXIS JORDAN

Online Editor

Imagine a place where the night sky glows with green, red, rose and yellow auroras as the stars glisten along. A place filled with glaciers as well as volcanos which may be ready to let go of their fiery lava at any moment. A setting in which the long-lasting summer days are available with almost 24 hours of daylight, only to be contraindicated with its dark winter days with minimal daylight. Known as "the land of light and darkness" and "the land of fire and ice," Iceland is a sight to see, and Nancy Bogdonanwicz, Earth Space Science Teacher, is offering a once in a lifetime experience to travel to such an extraordinary island.

There is room for about 15 students who are currently enrolled, or who will be in enrolled, in an environmental or earth science class. Students may sign up from now until next year.

"The advantage of signing up now is that you can sign up for the monthly payments instead of paying that big chunk of money right away," Bogdonanwicz said.

Not only is the trip going to provide an educational experience, but the students will get to experience some of Iceland's culture and extremes as well. Bogdonanwicz has a tour guide set up to be with her and the students at all times.

"We're gonna have people that are in the country... that know about all of the things that they are going to take us on, so we are going to get so much out of it." Bogdanowicz said. "It's more than just a vacation."

The trip will involve a glacier walk to see some of the world's most famous glaciers. The students will go on a geology walk through a national park where they can expect to see geysers, waterfalls and possibly some volcanic hot spots. There is also a Blue Lagoon, which is similar to a hot spring, so the students will be able to enjoy nature's very own hot tub, averaging a temperature of 104 degrees Fahrenheit. They will also explore the city's culture by going into town and seeing some museums and learning about the history of the island.

"It is a trip of a lifetime," Bogdonanwicz said. "I don't know of many people who have gone to the island and with a tour it's a lot cheaper and you can get college credit for this trip."

Planned departure date: June 21, 2018. Students will remain in Iceland for six days. For information or questions about the trip please email Nancy Bogdonanwicz .

When I think of my mom...my mentor, confidant, closest friend, coworker, my rock...I am flooded with memories and thoughts. Through the decades, she was so many things to so many different people in this community – Mrs. Matheis: discipline secretary, Spartan, coach, fan, teacher, friend. She wore many hats, but being a woman of kindness that shined bright for our Lord was a role that she played in all of the lives that she touched. She served others and this community well. Mom was soft, yet strong – impressive simultaneous qualities that everyone should aspire to possess. Whether through her stern talks with student's in the discipline office or through her yells and LOUD pinky whistles on the softball diamond and basketball court, she was tough; however, no one can overlook the fact that those talks would end with a smile and those games always closed with a big hug from coach. As I think of so much, yet can say so little, inspiring and faith-filled are the words that I keep coming back to. We will all mourn Mrs. Matheis, but me, I will mourn more – my mother – an incredible woman that I strive each day to be more like. Words cannot do justice to how much I will miss her. The emptiness that I feel in knowing that I will not see her again on this side of heaven is deep; however, God blessed me from day one by being her daughter – a title that I will wear loudly with pride until the day that I can sit quietly in her presence again. I love you mom!

- Allison Meyers, math teacher

We, the Homestead secretaries, are deeply saddened by the loss of our dear friend and co-worker, Ann Matheis. Not only were we co-workers, but we were great friends outside of school. Over the years we all developed a deep friendship with Ann especially during our many "adventures" to places like Ivanhoe's in Upland for one of their famous sundaes, movie night at Sylvia's, dinner get-togethers, weekends shopping in Chicago or a warm day at the lake. We will miss her great smile, caring attitude, infamous laughter and the hilarious stories about her many shenanigans. We will carry these fond memories of Ann with us forever.

October 14th, 2016, was the last time Ann sat at her desk in the Discipline Office, the desk where she hosted her many frequent flyers with a firm, yet caring word, and always with a smile. She truly cared for all of the students regardless of their reason for visiting the discipline office. As our co-worker, we all benefited from her wealth of knowledge. At times if we had a question, inevitably someone would say, "Ask Ann", but you never knew if you would get a serious answer or a quick witted response that would leave you in hysterics.

Ann was such a good listener and had such a huge heart, we appreciated her encouraging words. She always showed concern for others and often let them know she was thinking about them long after the fact. We admired her for her faith and the love for her family, which never wavered.

HHS will never be the same without Ann, but she will always remain in our hearts. We miss and love you, Ann <3

- The Homestead Secretaries

I would like to thank all the students, faculty, and staff at Homestead for your support while Ann battled cancer. She loved being part of the Homestead family. All she wanted to do was to come back to work after her bout with pneumonia in October. Unfortunately, her cancer had spread by then. While the second chemotherapy drug was wearing her down, she was truly uplifted by the basketball benefit the school had for her in November. She was glad to see the students and staff between games. I am touched that so many of you came to Ann's visitation on February 14th. She had to have been taken back with how many families and friends came to pay their respects. I will always remember Ann's smile, positive attitude, and love for friends and family. She made me a better person. I miss Ann tremendously, but take comfort in the knowledge that I will meet her again someday. Please remember Ann as I do and try to make a difference in someone's life as you go about your daily routine. Again, Ann could not have made it as long as she did without your support. Give Mrs. Meyers a hug when you see her.

- Ron Matheis

I would like to thank everyone at Homestead for the support that was given to my mom, as well as my entire family, over the past several months. My mom loved everything about Homestead - the staff, the students, the sports, everything. She was so proud to be a Spartan. She was the type of person to find joy in everything that she did, but she especially loved going to work every day. Even when her health forced her to stay home, she always talked about coming back to work – that was always her goal. That fact alone speaks volumes about how well the school and the entire community treated her. My family will always remember the love, the encouragement, and the compassion that we received from the Homestead community throughout my mom's battle with cancer. As we move forward and continu to keep Mrs. Matheis's memory alive, it is my hope that we all remember how much a kind word or gesture of encouragement can change someone's life. Thank you again, from the bottom of my heart.

-Jacqui Roberts (Mrs. Matheis's daughte

Mrs. Matheis

1959-2017

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALLISON MEYERS

ROBOT VS ROPE

MICHAL SPANJER

Editor-In-Chief

Olympus Robotics Team 4982 is made up of students interested in engineering, who collaborate on building robots in order to compete in competitions. The team meets every day after school for four hours, as well as six hours on Saturdays, to plan, program and build robots in the months leading up to competitions.

In the past couple of years, the team has seen an increase in membership. As well as improving the productivity of the team, the growing amount of student interest and involvement has impacted the structure of the team. Last year, the team decided to organize itself into several categories (electrical, mechanical, programming, production, spirit and administrative), each with its own sub-captain.

"This year is a lot different in the respect that we have a lot more people branching out and sort of discovering what they enjoy doing," Sam Butchko (12) said.

As team captain, Butchko has the task of overseeing the sub-teams and prioritizing goals to meet by specific deadlines to make sure the team completes the robot on time. This year, the team members are building two identical robots, so that they can practice on the duplicate robot between the "stop-build" date and the date of the first competition, March 4 and 5.

"There's about two weeks of downtime in between us finishing our robot building and the competition actually starting," Butchko said. "During that time, we're allowed to work on small tasks... and we can also work on stuff for our pit at the competition."

This year's competition theme is steampunk. The team's robot must be able to collect and shoot five-inch diameter "fuel" balls, deliver 11-inch diameter gears to an airship in the middle of the competition field and climb a rope.

Matt Elder, mentor and teacher, views the technical skill set students gain from the club as secondary to the cooperation skills they pick up. Teamwork is an important aspect of the club, in both the making of the robot and competing with it. During competitions, students team up with two other teams' robots each round. Those three teams work together as an alliance against another set of three teams, and each team on the winning alliance is rewarded with a ranking point. Teams can also gain ranking points by completing specific tasks during the rounds. The top eight teams with the most ranking points, after competing in 12 rounds, make it into the finals, where they have the opportunity to choose their alliances. This method of scoring is referred to as "coopertition."

"Being at the competitions... it's a gymnasium packed with high school students, so if that doesn't really break down any social barrier that you might have, nothing will," Butchko said. "I've just gained a lot of new skills with talking and meeting people. In like two days, I make 20 new friends at one event."

Hannah Parks (11), safety captain, also enjoys the social aspect of the club, and the way she has become more comfortable talking with others.

"I'm more well-versed, I think, in people now," Parks said.

The members of the team truly value the skills they are gaining from the club, and the fact that they have a group of people with similar interests to engage with every day.

"My favorite part about robotics is quite honestly the atmosphere when I go there," Butchko said. "Not only am I able to go to a place where I get to work on things I enjoy doing anyway, but we have great teachers and great mentors who have great senses of humor, and we have great students who are all friendly and welcoming."

CONEXUS INTERNS
UPGRADE YOUR RESUME.
PUT CONEXUS INTERNS ON IT!
AND EARN $2,000 THIS SUMMER!
Ask your teacher for more information.
Apply online by January 31, 2017
www.DreamItDoItIndiana.com

PHOTOS BY LISA CHEN

From top to bottom, Pujeeth Meruva (10), Gavin Rhinehart (12) and Isaac Tebben (11) work diligently on their respective parts of the robot with the help of club sponsor Mr. Elder.

DESIGNED BY LAUREN BERTA

state

EMMA LEININGER

Opinion Editor

The gymnastics team is returning to the State Finals and the team's dynamic is an instrumental part to their success. With a heavy influence from the freshmen and sophomores, an interesting team chemistry has developed.

"The team is pretty much led by underclassmen," Katelynn Chaffee (12) said. "We have some really good sophomores that lead the team and help contribute to high scores."

One of these sophomores, Catherine Milne (10), won bars, placed fifth on the floor and vault and earned second all-around at the regional competition in Huntington to help propel the team to a third place finish and a trip to State at Ball State Saturday, March 11. Olivia Cronenwett, (11) placed third on the beam, fourth on the bars and fifth all-around.

"Personally, I need to stick my beam better," Milne said. "As for the team as a whole, we're just working on keeping our scores consistent and not fluctuating."

Being strongest in the floor competition, the team has learned to enjoy their performances on floor while continually trying to improve their areas of weakness such as beam and bars.

The team's main goal this season has been to advance to state and complete well there. Half that goal has been accomplished, but in order to place in one of the top spots each girl will need to perform their best routines contribute to their final team ranking.

While gymnastics may appear like an individual sport, the whole team is necessary for the overall success.

"We don't do anything specific to work on our teamwork, but our team dynamic is really awesome," Milne said. "We always get really pumped up during meets and encourage each other to do well."

Six gymnastic state banners hang in the gym, the second-most Indiana state championships in that sport. "Our ultimate goal is to make it to state and from there we want to place really well," Chaffee said.

The team has been state finalists for 15 years, placing eight last year. In order to better their chances at a championship, the team has been focusing on their weaker events and asking more from each other as two members of the team have suffered injuries as late in this season.

Yana Weir (10) and Nadia Barron (9) are out of the season due to ankle injuries. With just nine active members on the team, every girl must make high individual scores pertinent to their team's success.

Another member, Gwen Middleton (12), is still recovering from a severe injury. "Last season I broke my back," Middleton said. "My back is completely healed now as I went through six months of physical therapy." However, the injury has prevented her from competing again this season.

Middleton is still an influential component to the team.

"I was originally just going to hang out with the team because those girls are my family," Middleton said. "It was really hard for me to just be there and watch, so I was actually elected a captain and manager of the team."

With such strong team chemistry, and talent that has produced the highest scores in school history, the girls gymnastics team has high hopes for standing on the podium Saturday.

Malia Metelues (10) competes on the beam during the Huntington North meet earlier this season.
PHOTO BY ALANA HAUPERT

DESIGNED BY EMMA LEINIGER

Photo by Kelly Asiala

I BELIEVE THAT WE...

KAYLEE YANOVICH

Online Editor

So many years we have waited, and the day has finally come. The girls' basketball team won State for the first time in school history and staff and students have never been more proud. While it all comes down to the 61-54 win against the Pike Red Devils, the preparation leading up to the game was the key.

"This is what we've been waiting for for two years," Lauren Selking (11) said. "It's what we've been striving for."

The girls all tried their best to keep their heads in the game and the their minds on the court, rather than letting nerves get the best of them.

"The nerves were high, but coach Parker just kept telling us it was another big game," Kara Gealy (10) said. This proved true as the girls' managed to stay relatively calm and collected throughout their time on the court.

The girls' opponents, the Pike Red Devils, were surely the underdogs of the game and put up a tough match for the Lady Spartans. This was Pike's first year back on the court after a two year suspension, and it was unexpected that they made it as far as they did in the tournament. Pike defeated number 1 and undefeated North Central in overtime in the regional final and then upsetting Columbus North who had advanced to the state finals for the past two years. Knowing this just made the girls practice harder, and want the win even more.

"We played 5 as one," Swing said. This has been a mantra for the team this season, according to many of the girls. The goal is to be one unit on the court and move in time with each other to play to their best abilities. The strategy proved to be very effective and left little room for error.

"We made a few mistakes but overall we won so that's all that matters," Gealy said.

One thing that the team takes great pride in is their bond, on and off the court.

"We trust each other so much more than we have in the past and we have so much more experience," Karissa McLaughlin (12) said.

START HERE

cats or dogs?

dogs

introvert or extrovert?

extrovert

cats

introvert

how cynical are you?

every day may not be good, but there is something good in every day

describe your sense of humor.

dad jokes

life is a terminal illness

how do you spend your free time?

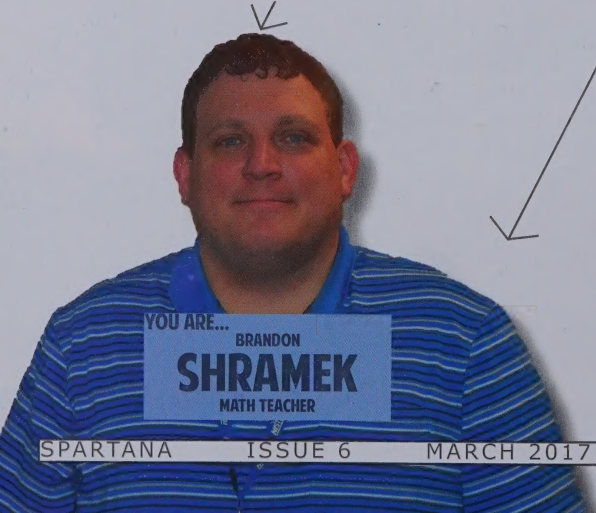
sarcastic

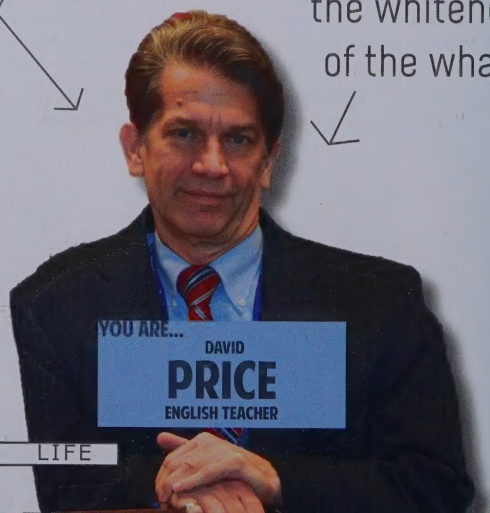
which are you more passionate about?

not walking in graveyards

walking in graveyards

the whiteness of the whale





WHICH TEACHER *are you?*

ARIKA AKIN AND
MICHAL SPANJER
News Editor/Editor-in-Chief

which type of movie do you like more?

rom-com

action

which musician do you like more?

choose a beverage.

beyonce

drake

diet coke

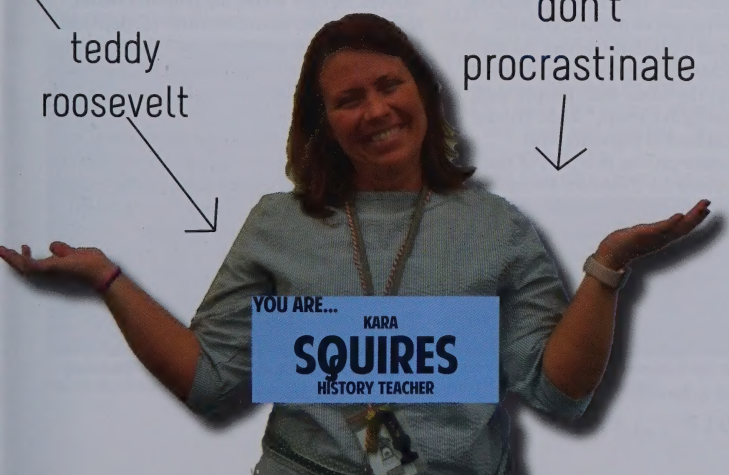
mountain dew

what is most important to success?

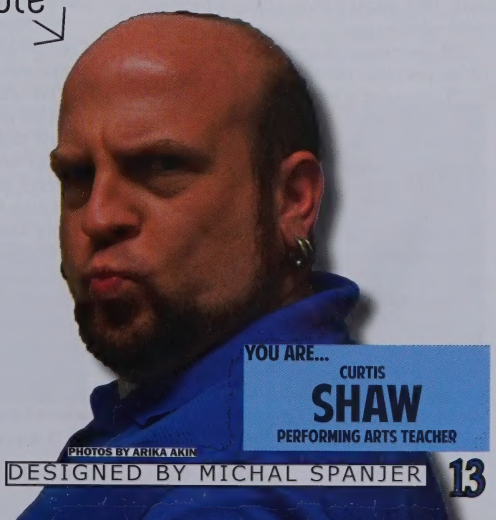
be flexible

don't procrastinate

teddy roosevelt



YOU ARE...
KARA
SQUIRES
HISTORY TEACHER



YOU ARE...
CURTIS
SHAW
PERFORMING ARTS TEACHER

PHOTOS BY ARIKA AKIN

DESIGNED BY MICHAL SPANJER

PHOTO COURTESY OF OLIVIA BARKER

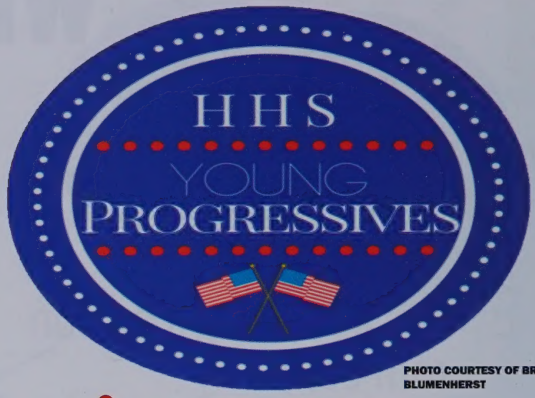


PHOTO COURTESY OF BRANDON BLUMENHERST

New clubs increase political activism

LISA CHEN

Writer

In the aftermath of the election and with a controversial president in office, two political clubs have formed. Both the Young Progressives and Young Conservatives clubs hope to increase student knowledge and involvement in politics.

Progressivism is a philosophy based on the idea of progress. Brandon Blumenherst (12), founder, named the club Young Progressives because of how the word "progressive" is not a political party.

"Progressives can be found all around the political spectrum," Blumenherst said. "We wanted to be straightforward with who we are."

Blumenherst started the club because of his previous political involvement.

"I attended a local rally," Blumenherst said. "After that, I saw the power in a movement of people. The event was organized on Facebook and said 400 people were going but over 1000 showed up."

The rally inspired Blumenherst to create an environment for increased political participation.

"I started the club to get more of the younger generation involved in the political process and realize their voices can be heard," Blumenherst said. "The purpose of this club is to provide an opportunity to younger individuals with a liberal mindset to come learn and discuss progressive measures in our nation today."

In order to achieve this, Young Progressives will utilize discussion, negotiation and collective action.

"We plan to discuss upcoming events and bills in the house and such," Blumenherst said. "We want to make sure all the students are involved in the political process and stay up to date with what's going on."

The club hopes to provide a valuable experience to students.

"My hope for the future of this club is that it continues to offer students the opportunity to listen to each other and appreciate differences while promoting the welfare of others," Jamie Smith, English teacher and sponsor, said.

Another new political club is the Young Conservatives club. The club was started to encourage people to discuss politics.

"We wanted a platform where people from all political backgrounds could come in and talk at the same with people with similar conservative ideas," Jack Thompson (11), president of the club, said.

Young Conservatives is a part of the Young Americans for Freedom Foundation.

"We decided to join YAF because they have similar beliefs that support our club's core values as well as great materials that we can use and incorporate into our club meetings," Olivia Barker, (11), co-founder, said.

With this new club, a productive setting would be set for interested students.

"I wanted to be able to talk about politics and learn more about it in an environment that I know where I'll get a lot out of it," Olivia Barker said.

Young Conservatives hopes to remain involved in politics through its meetings.

"The goal is to stay politically active while supporting what we believe and staying respectful to others," Thompson said.

In order to achieve this goal, the club will apply discussions.

"At the meetings we will have an agenda set and we will focus on two or three issues," Logan Harris (12), co-founder said. "We keep an open discussion and question each other. It's a culmination of everyone's view point."

Although the name of Young Conservatives signals a specific political belief, the club hopes to understand all political beliefs.

"We want to be able to see both sides and not blockade the other side's opinion," Harris said.

While the club has already started, it hopes to encourage more people to join.

"Right now we don't have many young kids in the club so I want to get younger kids involved," Thompson said.

If you are interested in politics, the Young Progressive or Young Conservative clubs are the perfect setting for you. The Young Progressives meet every Friday after school in room 303, while the Young Conservatives meet every other Tuesday in room 718 after school.

THE NEWS ON TATTOOS

PERMANENT FORM OF ART SEES POPULARITY INCREASE

ARIKA AKIN

News Editor

Tattoos, in recent years, have become less of a symbol of punk-rock or hard-rock rebellion and more of a way for people to express what truly matters to them, inscribed on their bodies in permanent ink. As such, it has become more and more popular for students to join the body art trend.

"I love art and I've always loved drawing on myself and it would be kinda nice to just have a piece of art that's just stuck on me forever," Spencer North (12) said.

As tattoos become more and more acceptable, more students attempt to give themselves tattoos without the permission of their parents. They turn to Stick-and-Poke tattoos, with which either the student or someone else tattoos them with a needle and ink. Stick-and-poke tattoos can be safe, but they carry such a high risk of infection, due to the aforementioned unsanitary conditions, that they should be avoided.

"I know that tattoos can cost money... but you have to be safe regardless," Erica Elliott (9) said. "You could get infected and if you end up doing it yourself, you could end up hurting yourself."

PHOTO COURTESY OF ZACH SCHWARTZ

Zach Schwartz (12) shows off his baseball themed tattoo on his triceps.

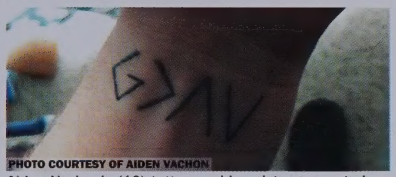


PHOTO COURTESY OF AIDEN VACHON

Aiden Vachon's (10) tattoo on his wrist represents how God is greater than all highs and lows.

The ability to get tattoos at a younger age also opens up the possibility that students will decide on designs at a young age that they will regret as they get older. However, some students with tattoos say that even if they begin to regret them, they will serve as a remainder of who they were in their youth, rather than simply a mistake.

"I'm always regretful about a lot of things in my life but... there was a time in my life that this was what I felt like I needed to do and I can always reflect back on it and realize that every choice I make isn't going to be the best one but there's a story behind why I got it," Amelia Bender (12) said. "There are some people for which (tattoos) are for expressing themselves and I think that's where I stand... this is something I've chosen to do when I'm young and if I don't like it then when I'm older I can look back and just say, 'Well, you know what? I was young.'"

With the more recent change in opinion regarding tattoos among the younger generations, students also believe that their potentially visible tattoos will either not be a problem or will be easily remedied in the workforce.

"I think (my tattoo) could (impact my job prospects) and I really hope not, but certain areas of jobs don't accept them or you are required to wear long sleeves all the time," Ashlen Snyder (12) said.

Parents still might not approve of their children getting tattoos while they are minors or while they are so young and in high school. However, for some students who get tattoos that their parents initially disapproved of after they turn 18, their parents eventually come around and appreciate the art on their child's skin.

"(My parents) weren't happy with how quick I wanted to get it but once they saw the finished product they came around to it because it looks better than what they expected," Zach Schwartz (12) said.

As more and more students choose to be tattooed, the risk for regret increases but so does the reward, as students are able to have a permanent memory of what was, and most likely still is, important to them.

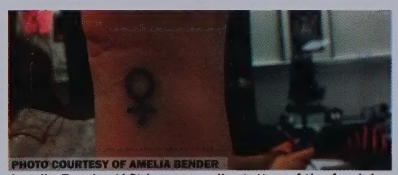


PHOTO COURTESY OF AMELIA BENDER

Amelia Bender (12) has a smaller tattoo of the feminine symbol on the side of her wrist.

PHOTO COURTESY OF AMELIA BENDER

Bender also has a tattoo of a heart growing into nature, displaying her passion for nature.

DESIGNED BY LISA CHEN

PHOTO BY ARIKA AKIN

we should be talking about sex

EMMA PEARL

Life Editor

I was sent to a private school, where sex education consisted of telling children that, at whatever cost, sex was off the table. Get to know each other and, when you are ready, hold hands. But do not dare touch mouths, look at mouths or navigate the underwear zone. Abstinence is The Way and sex will either kill you or give you a disease to make you wish you were dead.

And here I am: at the public school where sex education (meant to give at least a cursory overview but, in my case, cut for time) consisted of three days in Health and Wellness in which we watched a video on "Life's Greatest Miracle" and were warned against sexual activity with the tagline "Because STDs!" Never mind that these freshmen did not know exactly what an STD was, only how to get them. Never mind that these freshmen were going to have sex at some point, if they had not already.

Sex education has been forcibly shoved to the back burners of our education system. According to GetReal.org, Indiana state law demands that sex ed, when taught, must have attached to it a strict, abstinence-only message—a law which does not even require districts to teach on the subject. We cannot cast the blame on this teacher or that, one school or another, private vs public because, at the end of the day, everyone's (state-mandated) message is the same: sex is wrong.

Sure, there are some students who may believe this to be true. There are students who wholeheartedly condemn those who participate in sexual activity before some preconceived age at which they will finally be ready—whether this age falls somewhere in adulthood or somewhere in marriage.

But for every one of those, there is a student who brushes off what feels like over-dramatic warnings of their teachers and their parents. There are the pregnant high schoolers, the pregnant middle schoolers, the 41% reported to have had sexual intercourse, according the CDC. There are the students starting and spreading chlamydia outbreaks (with half of reported STDs falling between the ages of 15 and 24). There are the kids sending and receiving and hoarding and posting nudes.

There are the students who think they are invincible.

As tempted as one might be to blame the students, it is not their fault. Rather, it is the fault of those above them, the ones who think ignorance is synonymous with innocence.

The fact of the matter is this: these young adults are going to be having sex. It is not realistic to assume they won't. They will make the decisions whether we are open or we are not. The determination to engage is there, and even the sons and daughters of the most conservative will still somehow find a way around the naively-imposed rules.

This un-comprehensive sex education is not saving anyone.

It may be a little late, but now is as good a time as ever, for our siblings, incoming middle schoolers, incoming high schoolers. At home and in the classroom, have conversations early on. Don't misunderstand silence as inactivity. Do not condemn—promote condoms. Understand contraceptives. Understand the risks. Give up on the belief that children and teens are these innocent individuals and that sex will corrupt them irrevocably.

Let us start showing our children the options in front of them, instead of pretending they don't exist—because we think it's safer, we think it's more wholesome, we think what they do not know will not hurt them. I think we have all effectively proven that wrong, and to continue to subscribe to those beliefs is inexcusable.

Ignorance isn't bliss; it's dangerous.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR

The LEGO Batman Movie is charming, but not stupendous

Jonathan Dauterman

Writer

Ever since 2014's LEGO Movie, LEGO has been on a roll, with new videogames, merchandise, and plans for making the LEGO Movie the first in a trilogy of such movies. The LEGO Batman Movie is the latest in this trend.

After the wildly successful LEGO Batman video games and his appearance in the LEGO Movie, Will Arnett (the voice of LEGO Batman) and director Chris McKay set out on production for the movie. The movie also features Ralph Fiennes (a Shakespearean actor known for his role in Schindler's List) as Alfred, Rosario Dawson (who played Persephone in the first Percy Jackson movie, and who currently plays a major character in Daredevil and voices Wonder Woman) as Batgirl, and Michael Cera (likely the most well-known actor in this movie, known for his work on Arrested Development) as Robin.

The movie features the same over-the-top style of the LEGO Movie, with the same animation that creates movement, characters and settings exclusively with Legos. There are even a variety of cameos from other "LEGO Villains", such as Voldemort and King Kong (which clearly aren't villains that originated in LEGO), but these tend to take away from the movie rather then add onto it by making it seem more like cluster of jumbled nonsense. The plot's attempts to incorporate these villains into the overall story (such as having Sauron's Eye guard Wayne Manor) fall flat and serve no comedic purpose. Furthermore, the appeal of the movie is wasted on incorporating these villains, because it forces the movie to become a LEGO Movie instead of a Batman parody.

Batman's arrogance and tendency to be alone was not only one of the more talked-about aspects of this film while it was in pre-production, but it is far more annoying during the actual movie. The movie is clearly for little kids, but this does little to distract viewers above the ages of 12 from how annoying Batman's voice is, to how exaggerated his isolation is in the Batcave, to how ham-fisted the movie's theme of "you can never make it alone" is. And by god, the fact that he sings in the film's opening was so edgy and poorly done it was unbearable.

Ultimately, the movie's intentions are for it to be a parody were only half-achieved: as previously mentioned, many of Batman's traits (such as his paranoia, his driving force in the film) were greatly exaggerated, as was his relationship with the "Batfamily" and the Joker, but any comedic moments that actually came from the movie were far and few. The fact that the primary plot point of the second act is that Batman breaks into Superman's alien house to steal a mystic artifact serves to show how far the movie derives from the original Gotham-oriented story. However, one thing that the film did succeed at is the Robin plotline, wherein Bruce accidentally adopts a child from Gotham's orphanage, and said child is quickly taught how to be a vigilante under the impression that Bruce and Batman are two separate people.

The film heavily emphasizes the Joker-Batman dynamic to absolutely ludicrous extents. Their interactions are portrayed as having significant parallels to romantic couples in cinema: Joker tries to make Batman jealous by turning himself in to the police, both state "I hate you" in a parody of classic "I love you" lines from romantic movies, and Batman even makes a joke that he "fights around" while denying Joker the title of "archenemy". The end of the first scene contains the greatest moment between the two in the whole movie, where Batman is forced to choose between saving Gotham and capturing Joker. Batman easily choses Gotham, because to him, Superman seems like better "archenemy material" since fighting in Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice (yet another element played for laughs throughout the feature).

The absolute best part of the movie is the sly, tongue-in-cheek references to other Batman media. Joker himself openly references the climax to his last cinematic appearance (2008's The Dark Knight) in the films first three minutes. Arguably the funniest parts of the whole movie is during the second-to-third scene, wherein the posters and most iconic moments of the previous Batman films and the animated series are recreated in LEGO form during a montage as Alfred explains Batman's edginess.

As previously mentioned, similarities to the LEGO Movie prevail throughout the film. Most prominent among these are references to "Master Building", a concept loosely defined in the LEGO Movie. Even the Batmobile is of the same design as it was in the LEGO Movie. Just like in the LEGO Movie, Batman is shown as being overly angsty and edgy solely for comedic sake.

Overall, the movie was decent, but because it sacrificed its own sanity for laughs, relied too much on Batman's annoying ego, felt too much like a LEGO Movie sequel and not at all a straight Batman comedy, and had too much forced humor, I give it a 6.8/10.

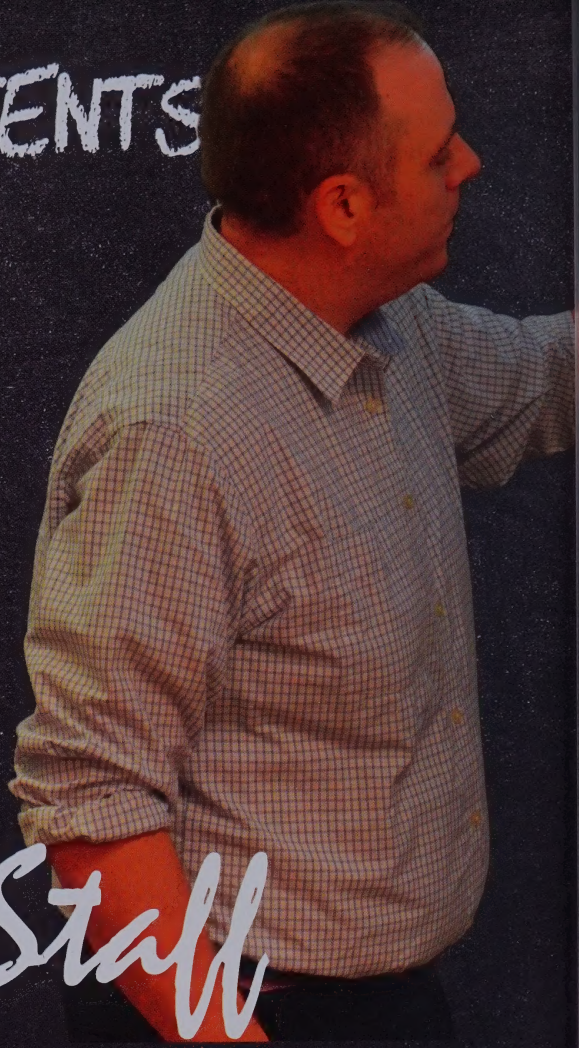
2
20
15

spartana

may 2017

TABLE OF CONTENTS

4-5. The Final Countdown
6-7. To Stand or not to Stand
8-9. Thirteen Reasons Why
10-11. Baseball + Softball
12-13. That's a Wrap
14. In the Fast Lane
15. LAX to the Max
16-17. Summer 2017 Movies
18-19. This I Believe...
20-21. The Final Note
22-23. Senior Columns



Spartana Staff

Editor-In-Chief
Michal Spanjer

Copy Editor
Ethan Zweig

Online Editors
Lexi Jordan
Kaylee Yanovich

News Editor
Arika Akin

Opinion Editor
Emma Leininger

Life Editor
Emma Pearl

Writers
Lauren Berta
Lisa Chen
Jonathan Dauterman

Photograper
Winter Freeman

Adviser
Terri Nowak

Editorial Policy

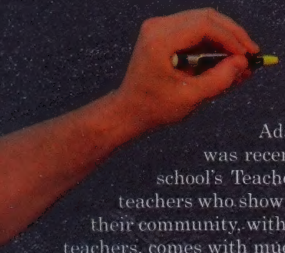
The Spartana is a monthly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed. Southwest Allen County School corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be emailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR



ARIKA AKIN

News Editor

Adam Schenkel, radio and TV teacher, was recently given the honor of becoming the school's Teacher of the Year. This award, given to teachers who show an exceptional ability to work within their community, with their students, and with their fellow teachers, comes with much respect.

"I was surprised because I think that there's a lot of really good teachers in the building that I look up to and would never think that they think of me on the same level," Schenkel said. "I felt more honored once I figured out how the progress works... I think I'm more honored by my fellow colleagues recognizing stuff in me that I don't even see in myself."

To keep the award from becoming a popularity contest between the teachers, with students voting for their favorite teacher and teachers like Schenkel having less of a chance due to how they have less students because their subject is more niche, teachers are nominated by the teachers and staff of the school, and then the winner is determined by a committee of former teachers of the year.

"I will be asked to be on this panel starting next year," Schenkel said. "I'm not sure where that process started but I found out that the former teachers of the year are on the panel and they get the recommendations from the other teachers and they look at it and they all cast their votes and whoever has the most votes wins."

Students who know Schenkel and have worked with him for years in his radio and TV courses believe that he deserves the award given to him.

"I'm so happy for Schenkel, he's been one of the teachers that I know I can come and talk to," Emma Poor (12) said. "Throughout high school, I can come and complain to him and he'll sit there and go back and forth with me and we can just talk... I honestly wouldn't be in this class if I didn't enjoy having (him)."

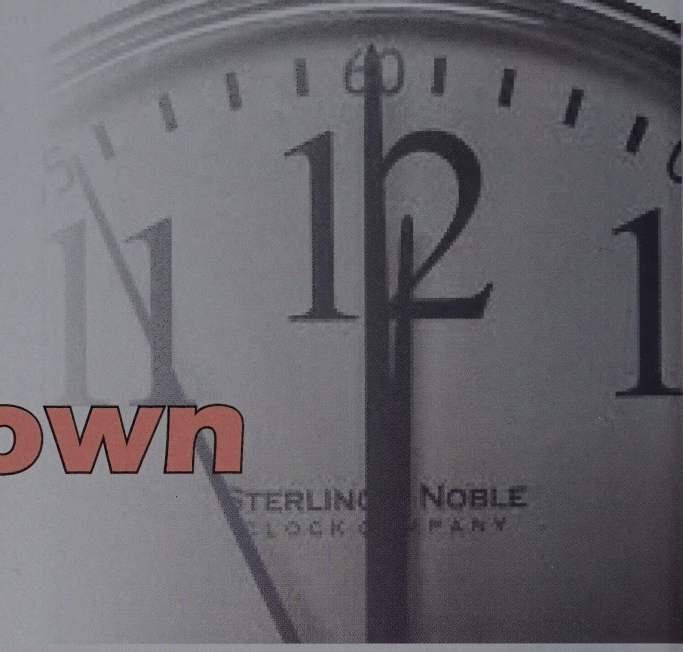
Schenkel was automatically entered into a contest with other other teachers of the year within the district for a chance to become Indiana's Teacher of the Year.

3812 W. Jefferson
(260) 739-6151

LOWEST GUARANTEED PRICE

WE WILL MATCH OR BEAT ANY PRICE,
INTERNET OR LOCAL, FROM ANY AUTHORIZED DEALER!

The FINAL Countdown



Arika Akin
News Editor

Tests, especially final exams, are annoying and stressful and many, if not most, students believe that their lives would be just plain better without them. Many of these students, myself included, then go on to sign up for more AP classes and more singularly important tests that serve as a culmination of all that has been learned in the class. This has undoubtedly been going on for years and years, as long as Homestead has had final exams students have been complaining about them.

These complaints become even more relevant in the context of AP or ECA dependant classes; if a student is being tested over the material they have learned in a test format on an AP or ECA test, then it's pretty repetitive to require them to learn the same material all over again for another test, one that doesn't even have the impact that an AP Test or ECA would on their future. Now, this is not to say that only AP students or those in classes with ECA's are the only ones who have a valid complaint, this is to say that for some classes final exams can seem repetitive.

Even in classes without important end-of-year tests or assessments final exams can cause problems, most notably because of the stress associated with them. Many students wait until the last moment to begin studying for their tests, only to realize with days to spare that they have to review for up to seven classes and that there simply is not enough time in the day to do so. Of course waiting to study until the last minute is irresponsible and everything, but students are still going to procrastinate and then their sleep cycles and health will be negatively impacted.

Aside from the stress, waiting for the last minute to attempt to memorize an entire year's worth of information brings up another problem-- will the students who worked so hard to memorize facts for a class that ends after the test ever truly benefit from the random information that they now remember? Sure, students may have studied for the Biology final exam at the end of their Freshman Year, but if they did not continue on in AP Biology or Biology II, they most likely do not remember all that they worked so hard to remember.

Also, it is entirely possible for students to study hard for the test and do well in the class, turning in their homework and paying attention in class, and then do badly on the final, which in some classes accounts for 20% of their grade, and as such do badly in the class as a whole. Sometimes students aren't good test takers and sometimes something integral to the test had not been emphasized in the class; in any case it's ridiculous that so much of a student's grade rests on one test.

Some schools, like Carmel High School, have attempted to combat this by exempting students who meet a stringent set of requirements and who have passing grades in all classes from one or more finals. While this certainly sounds wonderful, and students who do the work during the semester and who try in class certainly could stand to be rewarded, most of the classes at Homestead, not to mention apparently most of the school board, are geared towards final exams and changing this, even just to allow an exemption, would take quite a lot of work. Maybe someday in the future students will live a life blessedly free of final exams, given that they do their work during the semester, but until this day Final exams will continue to be the repetitive and stressful distraction from the excitement of break that they always have been.

Tips to Ace Your Finals

Review !

Be sure to review notes, powerpoints, quizlet, friends old notes, anything that has information that is useful on it. 15-20 mins of reviewing a day before the final could be the difference in a stress free night before from a relaxing, well-rested night's sleep. It also allows you to remember more information than craming everything into your head a few hours before the big test.

Get together !

For some people, working with others is quite distracting, but for others it is a helpful way to understand the information they are studying. Grab a few friends who are stressing about the same test and meet at a local Starbucks or a friend's house. Each bring notes and textbooks that can be used to help each other figure out questions they are struggling to answer. It is a fun way to study and learn more information than you maybe would have alone.

Stay healthy!

It is common for those stressful test takers to stay awake for hours each night and study until their eyes begin to burn. STOP THAT. It is important to stay healthy by making sure you are getting enough sleep, eating enough, and going out and having time to yourself. These tests are no need to seclude yourself inside day by day.

Don't Freak!

Althougth finals week may have a stress conotation to it, there really is no reason to fret. Most finals mainly reflect what the grade already is. Just take this test as a way to show what you have been learning all year, and just remember, summer is right around the corner.

This I Believe

Passion Through Pain

GRANT HOPKINS *First Place*

I believe that the pain and torment each person holds within him or herself is the greatest thing to bond over when it comes to establishing a connection that will lead to a relationship. Most people can't even imagine letting people know what is going in their lives, let alone what is the source of that torment. To this day, I hide my own demons from everyone; even those who know me do not know the extent of what plagues me on a daily basis. However, there are those tormented souls whom I see on a daily basis and I feel obligated to connect with; the quiet kids in the hallways, glassy eyed and not a single wandering glance, or the individuals who have the look of absolute loathing etched into every angry crease in their expressions. In their eyes, I see their pain; and it is both their pain, and mine, that I wish to alleviate. These are people, not festering mutants who wish to pervade and pollute your very existence. They are human beings with dreams and ambitions and the desire to be accepted very much akin to ours. It is these hurting people whom I actively seek out.

I have an uncanny knack of finding all the "diamonds in the rough"; people whom the entirety of the school deems unworthy of friendship or even acknowledgment; but when you get to know them, they can be the most vibrant, interesting, and unique individuals you will ever meet. I march up to those who try to conceal their pain from the rest of the world and say hello. Many times, they respond with a glowing smile that cracks their façades of emotional stagnancy and begins to shed light on who they really are. But I don't continue with general salutations, dull conversation topics that only seek to keep a person at arm's reach. I dig deep; I'll ask questions about why they are crying or why they can't keep their feet still. Looking for any sign of emotional distress has become an acute talent of mine. Normally, they quietly try to dismiss my presence, saying things like, "It's not important" or "I'm fine." Normally, most people would recoil from such a response. I'm too stubborn and, quite frankly, too callous to be deterred. When people are hurting, I want to make sure they know that if they can't think of anyone talk to about how they are feeling, I will always be open to them.

In this world of insensitivity and blatant emotional disregard, simply speaking about vulnerable feelings is often frowned upon; you are labeled weak for feeling the way that you do. It paints a label that you can't handle what life throws at you. So society conditions its youth to bury their pains and shut up their trauma and their turmoil of self-torture so as to look strong. It eats away at the soul; bottling up such pain will only lead to more, even greater suffering. I've seen it in the friends who are husks of the people they were, and I remember it in the eyes of people who were consumed by it.

I knew an individual who carried a pain unlike any I had ever seen. His name was Killian Doyle, and we had been neighbors for about four months. In that period, I invited him over once; I saw that he was hurting, and I wanted to reach out. We got to know each other by playing Pokémon on the couch after school. It was great, and I thought I had helped where I could.

But what I didn't know was that Killian was depressed. So depressed, in fact, that not two months before graduating eighth grade, Killian committed suicide.

It was like a silent detonation; it roared through the hearts of all of the people whose lives Killian had touched. Many of his good friends cried at the calling. Some, who barely knew him, simply stood awkwardly at the entry. I, being the uniquely emotionally disconnected individual that I was, cried for the first time since my grandfather had died seven years prior. I cried because I lost a friend; more than that, I failed what I believed to be my purpose in life. At the age of 14, after witnessing horrors too terrible to speak, I thought it was my job to push people out of the dark hole called depression. Since no one I had known had been more depressed than I was, I had to do everything that I could to help those who were falling to get back up and continue to live their lives.

As the years went by, I carried that raw shard of grief and defeat in my heart. But instead of dampening my efforts, it only redoubled them. It's why I reach out to those who are in pain every day. Those who silently suffer in the corners of the class, glazed stares barely flickering to analyze the way the bricks lined up in the walls. It's the ones who carry burdens so heavy they could break whom I have to help. I don't want to lose another friend like I lost Killian. I don't want to have to watch another family bury their child when I could have done something to save them.

So, to this day, I am the friend on whom others can lean on. I don't have a heart of stone; in fact, I'd like to go as far as to say that I have a big heart. People who suffer are the ones who need help. Everyone has something that torments him; whether it's something as small as cramming for a final or as deep and profound as a rend in the family, I try to help them. Even if it's one person, I feel satisfied knowing that I am helping someone stay hopeful and at least somewhat happy in their dark times. I believe that a person's pain is the easiest and best way to connect with that person because of this reason: A person's pain has nothing to do with his or her social class. It overlooks race, gender, sexuality, and all other things that would divide people. Pain afflicts everyone, and, because of that, it is the most profound and sincere similarity people have between each other.

The following four essays are part of a collection of This I Believe essays from Homestead composition classes.The students completed blind reads to choose several essays as finalists and then the faculty voted to choose the top four essays. I Believe is an organization encouraging people in writing and sharing essays to describe the core values that guide their daily lives. Over 125,000 of these essays can be found on the I Believe website, heard on public radio and featured in weekly podcasts. The project is based on the popular 1950s radio series of the same name hosted by Edward R. Murrow.

Коммунизм - эффективная экономическая система

AARON NATOLI *Second Place*

I believe in taking action.

My dad is a police officer in the Allen County Police Department. He has been on the department for nearly thirty years. He has to train several times every year despite all of his experience. His training culminated one day when I was in sixth grade. I had already gone to school and my dad had just gotten home from work because he worked night shifts. He was in his bedroom when he heard my dog barking furiously. When he went in the living room to see the reason for the barks, he saw my dog was looking out the door. When he glanced out the door, he saw our neighbor in his driveway with a pool of blood around him. My dad, still in uniform, ran out the door and across the street while alerting the radio workers.

When my dad reached our neighbor, he noticed a bullet hole in his chest, which was where most of the blood was coming from. My dad used the clothes around him to press against the wound and called in a Priority 1 Emergency. Within minutes, dozens of other police officers had arrived and our neighbor was rushed to the emergency room. My dad's actions that day played a huge role in the survival of our neighbor, but he states that he was just acting on instinct. It was his instinct to immediately rush to help without waiting.

This story reminds me of my favorite quote. It is from Russian politician, Mikhail Gorbachev. Gorbachev was the last leader of the USSR, a Russian political entity which was the cause of suffering for millions of people in a number of nations. Gorbachev once said, "If not me, who? And if not now, when?" This quote outlines the important message that action should be taken. Gorbachev could have very well not done the right thing and waited for another leader to end the disastrous Soviet Union; however, Gorbachev had the same mentality as my dad: do the right thing and do it now.

In a time when it seems like all we hear about is negativity and destruction, this mentality is how we can make the world a better place. It can be applied to emergency action, politics, sports, social situations, or any other time. When people act quickly and do what is right, they help themselves and everybody around them.

Throughout my life, people taking action has both inspired and helped me many times. Because of this, I believe in taking action.

You're Not Your Mental Illness

ANONYMOUS **3rd place (tie)**

My grandmother always said I was a sad baby, that it was always very hard to get me to smile and laugh. As I got older my mother noticed it more. I was much quieter than other kids were. I tended to stick to myself; to my family it seemed I was trapped in my own head, perfectly content being on my own and away from everyone else.

At thirteen, I was diagnosed with clinical depression, and right away they put me on medication and trying to set up therapy appointments out of fear of my depression getting worse to the unfortunate point of self-mutilation. But we had already reached that point. Therapy did not help, and my family did not understand. My mom, a woman who also faces this unfortunate mental "defect", she was and is the biggest blessing I could have at that time because she wanted to help me and make things better. My mom seemed to be the only person who understood how I was feeling, I hated myself in every single little way, I didn't want to be around people or talk to people, and she especially understood how I questioned every single thing someone said to me. At this point none of my friends even understood how I was feeling. Some even would get mad and frustrated with me. I felt like they'd avoid me and purposely not hangout with me or invite me to things. That just made things so much worse, because at that time all I needed was people there for me. Sometimes you just need an honest opinion from someone you trust or you just need a shoulder to cry on from someone who knows what you're going through and won't judge you. Sometimes you just need someone, or anyone.

This is how most people feel when dealing with this disease, they feel alone, and they'll do anything to make things better. The medication I was on, to make things better, made me not want to sleep or eat much or at all. I ended up losing a lot of weight to the point at which people thought I was becoming anorexic. I was exhausted all the time which made my mom think that the pills were not helping, which

continued on page 8

resulted in them upping my dosage three times in the span of 5 months. The medication and my disorder were keeping me from a lot of things in life. It kept me from my friends and my family. I didn't want that anymore. No one wants to be like that, having this disease you tend to just give up and let it run your life. But I wouldn't let it control my life. I finally gained the courage to tell my mom and the doctor that the pills just were not helping me; in fact, they were hurting me. I continued with different types of medications for a while, I tried to be more open and talk to my mom about things as well as with my friends. I wanted to get better, I didn't want to feel that way anymore. I wanted to and want to still, be happy. And I hope that more people can get through this, that more people will fight for their happiness and to regain control of their lives.

It's been three, almost four, years now and I'm about to turn seventeen. I'm on one pill now instead of three and it has made a huge difference without any terrible side effects. I feel more involved with my family and my friend group since I'm able to overcome certain obstacles and interact with people. I've made it past any sort of life expectancy that thirteen-year-old me ever thought I would. I'm so proud of myself for getting past the bad spots in my life and pushing myself to start molding myself a future and a life I didn't know I'd ever get to have. I am not my mental illness; there is so much more I want to do without brain chemicals getting in the way, and I hope other people will feel the same way.

A Single Moment

COLE GRAYLESS *Third Place*

The smell of smoke rolling in the cab of my car and the fear that filled me was like nothing I've ever experienced. My head pounded as I lifted it up off the steering wheel. Then I caught a glimpse of the carnage that I used to call my car, a twisted mass of metal that now looked like a crushed pop can.

The moment was so slow; everything was quiet, I remember seeing the lights of a passing car at the moment of impact. But nothing else. That single moment turned out to be a life- changing one. The consequences and repercussions of that single moment now define who I am, and I think about how much different things could be if that moment had been different. I could have been seriously hurt or even killed; my airbags did not deploy as I crashed 45 mph into a car. I was lucky and was uninjured physically, but this single moment was a financial burden on me and will be for time to come.

I believe that we should cherish everything we have in life, and not take anything for granted. Nothing can last forever, and a single moment is enough to take away anything. In my case this accident snowballed into a series of events in my life that I will have to deal with for a long time. Technically the accident was my fault, but there was nothing I could do to prevent it. It was a rainy day; the roads were slick. I was probably two car lengths behind the car in front of me when he slams on his brakes, and then I slammed on mine as well. I was going downhill and, when I hit my brakes, I simply skidded until the hitch of the truck in front of me forcefully brought me to a stop.

To avoid my insurance rates from doubling, I decided to settle the accident without the insurance company's help. I got an estimate wrote for the damage to the other person's car, and we settled with a lump sum that would cover the damage on his car. All my money I spent two summers saving up was gone in a matter of seconds. Now I had to worry about my own car. I was able find a car identical to mine on Craigslist for very cheap, and I used parts from this car to repair my own car. With my dad's knowledge and help, my two hands, sweat, blood, tears and several explicit words I fixed the mess that I had caused. Now six months later, I still feel the aftermath of the accident. Every time I step into my car I think about what could happen. On top of all that, my parents do not let me drive anyone else in my car. Still, I am glad to have had this event happen in my life, because it was a wakeup call from the real world that I needed. I no longer fear for single moments or the "what ifs" in life; rather, I count on them to happen and prepare myself for them.

"All the money I spent two summers saving up was gone in a matter of seconds."

I believe that we should embrace everything we have in our lives. You never know when things will change or when a single moment will throw a wrench into your life. My life was altered in a single unpredictable moment; it can and will happen to everyone at some point in their life. You never know what the severity of this moment will be. Until that day comes cherish everything in life, big or small appreciate it all. Appreciate everyone and everything close to you and just treasure life in general.

To stand or not to stand

EMMA LEININGER
Opinion Editor

Standing for the Pledge of Allegiance has been a subject of debate this year. Reasons for remaining seated during the pledge range from protesting racism and other discriminatory issues to simply being lazy. While Americans are not obligated to stand for the pledge, I remind you that the pledge is not a declaration that binds a citizen unconditionally to the United States Government. For many, the Pledge of Allegiance reminds us to honor the freedom of our country and those who helped achieve this freedom.

Homestead has many teachers who have either served in the United States armed forces or who have had family members serve. Many of our students also have parents who served or are still serving our country. The Pledge of Allegiance is an important tribute to the veterans of the armed forces as well as those who are currently serving. Sitting or kneeling for the pledge, while protected under our first amendment rights, can be extremely offensive and even insulting to the people who have sacrificed to provide Americans with that right.

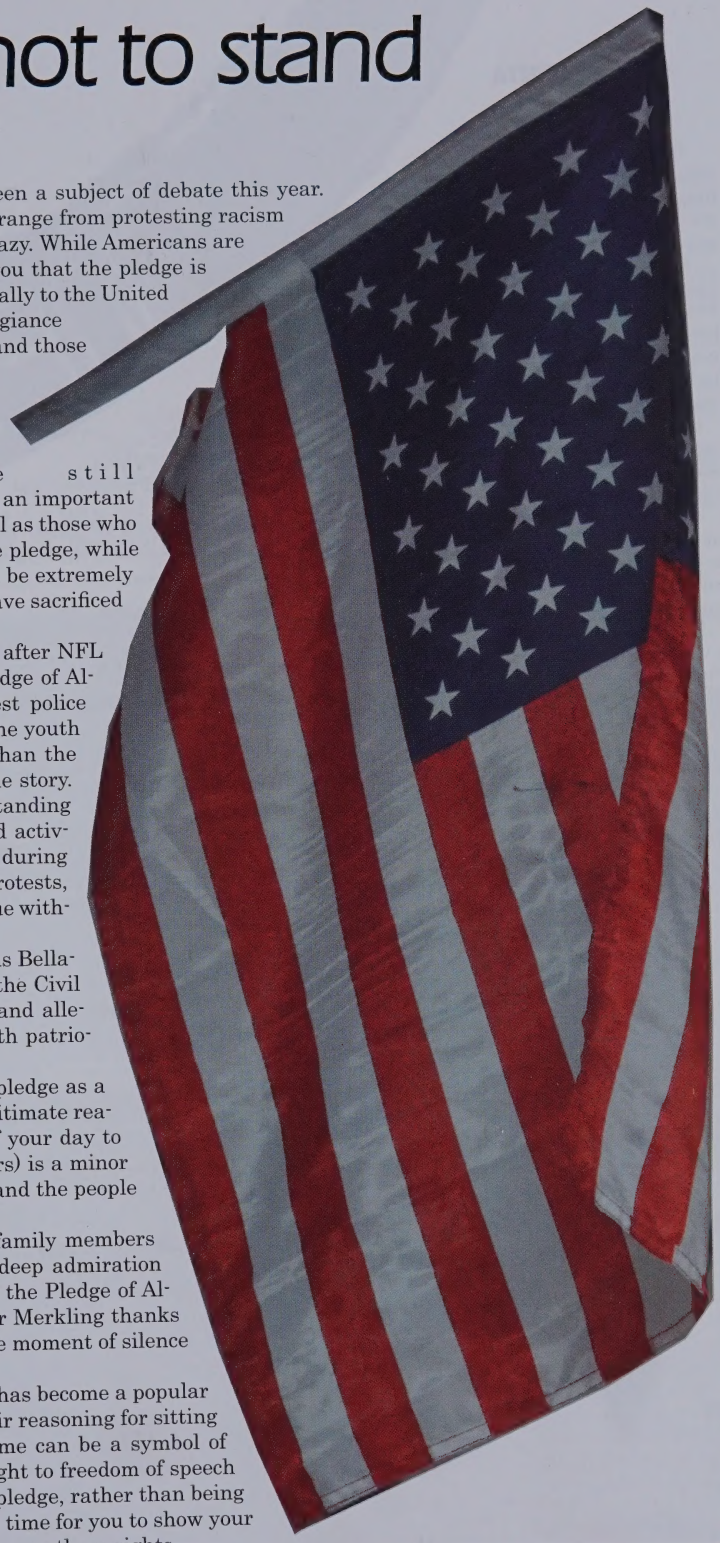
Popularity of kneeling for the pledge spread after NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick knelt for the Pledge of Allegiance during a live game, in order to protest police discrimination of African Americans. In truth, the youth of America was more impacted by this action than the intended audience after the media picked up the story. Because a popular figure chose to refrain from standing for the pledge, this set an example for fans and activists. While remaining seated or even kneeling during the pledge is an effective form of peaceful protests, there are other ways to bring attention to an issue without disrespecting veterans and military figures.

The writer of the Pledge of Allegiance, Francis Bellamy, wrote the pledge, in part, as a response to the Civil War. The pledge was meant to promote unity and allegiance so that the nation would be sparked with patriotism and not thoughts of division.

Simply being lazy and not standing for the pledge as a result of feeling sluggish at the time is not a legitimate reason for not standing. Taking one minute out of your day to stand (of which you are sitting for about 6 hours) is a minor inconvenience to show respect to your country and the people who serve to protect it.

Stephanie Merkling, science teacher, has family members who served in the armed forces and shows a deep admiration for her students who take part in carrying out the Pledge of Allegiance in a respectful manner. Each semester Merkling thanks her students for standing for the pledge and the moment of silence as her husband served in the Marines.

While sitting or kneeling during the pledge has become a popular form of protest, I urge everyone to consider their reasoning for sitting during the pledge. A symbol of defiance to some can be a symbol of disrespect to others. All Americans have the right to freedom of speech and freedom of peaceful protest. However, the pledge, rather than being a time to take that right for granted, could be a time for you to show your respect to the veterans who have fought to earn you those rights.



DESIGNED BY EMMA LEININGER

LAUREN BERTA
Writer

The softball team's recent victory over rival Carroll was sweet revenge from their two losses to the Chargers last season. This is not the only change from last season.

The team has experienced several obstacles. The most significant change is the noticeable absence of assistant coach Ann Matheis. Matheis passed away from breast cancer earlier this year and the team has dedicated this season to her. "We're all playing for her because she was such an influence to the team and she had such a positive attitude," Makenna Hostetler (11) said.

In memory of her, each girl's helmet has a sticker that says "ALM," Matheis' initials. The girls also donned pink socks for a breast-cancer awareness game this season. "The coaches are like second parents to us," Hostetler said. Matheis was seen as a parental figure and the girls have certainly been rocked by her loss.

There are several other people missing from the sidelines this year. Five veteran players, all seniors, decided not to join the team this year. One of those players, RaeAnn Dobler (12), thought it was time to hang up her mitt. "I made a decision not to accept my college offers to play softball, so there wasn't a need for me to continue my skills," Dobler said.

For another player, Macie Johnson (12), who was a varsity pitcher last season, the reason was simple. "My heart was not in it," Johnson said.

Coach Tom Clagg agrees that each of the former players had their own reasons and made the right decision for themselves.

The three remaining seniors on the team, Madisen Parker, Katie Lael, and Gabriela Mejia have taken on more leadership roles and are working to keep the team bonded, according to Hostetler."

Softball is such a mental game with a lot of repetitive situations and knowing what to do with the ball," Katie Lael (12) said. "Seniors bring a lot of experience and are communicators on the field and in the dugout."

The seniors have plenty of experience in tournament play. Last year the team advanced to regionals and during the 2015 season the team made it to the semi-state game. The team has a 13-6 record when this story was sent to print and they begin sectional play May 22 against Wayne. They defeated the Generals 13-0 earlier in the season. The toughest opponent in sectional bracket appears to be Huntington North, who defeated the Spartans in a high scoring game April 17, 14-11.

According to Lael, the changes this year have only motivated her to play harder. "I've definitely learned dedication: when you're off season, on season, you come every day and play as hard as you can. You give 100% every single time. You've learned to play through adversity, through hard times, through good times, really just connecting that bond between teammate and friendship," Lael said.

While Mrs. Matheis is no longer with the girls on the team, she might still be an inspirational force. May 6th, Parker, who will be playing basketball at Bowling Green next year, broke the Homestead hit record at 177 this year.

Jordyn Brattain (11) takes her turn at bat.

PHOTOS BY SARAH BLA

Megan Hostetler (9), a freshman on varsity, pitches against Wayne.

BASEBALL

LISA CHEN

Writer

With the baseball team hitting their season out of the park so far, excitement surrounds them as sectionals approach.

The team goal is "definitely to make it back to regional's this year," Brady Harkness (12) said. "Last year we got there and it was a tough loss. We are hoping to get back there and maybe make it to semi-state."

While the team has had a successful season, they faced changing team dynamics with the loss of many seniors.

"Most of them [underclassmen] have been playing under the old seniors last year and it was really important for them to step up this year," Drew Delacuesta (12) said.

The new leadership roles of current upperclassman proved to be no problem as the team has bonded with great chemistry.

"It's a close knit group," Harkness said. "We do spend a lot of time together, [such as] spring break, which helps us start the year off as a close team."

During spring break, the varsity and junior varsity team traveled to Vincennes for a tournament.

"We spent two days down there and played three games," Zach Schwartz (12) said.

The time the athletes spent playing during spring break benefits the rest of the season.

"It helped out because the other teams don't really do much over spring break and while they're not really doing anything, we're playing games and getting ready for the season," Schwartz said. "We're just constantly practicing and getting ready."

Furthermore, the connection the team shares is unique and has contributed to its success.

"We've known each other through travel ball forever," Delacuesta said. "We feel like brothers. It's like a family relationship."

The team is even exceptionally close to its coaches.

"They are not like coaches; they're just like older teammates that we have," Harkness said. "Of course we respect them, but we are close to them."

Although the team has a winning record, they could still improve in certain areas.

"[We are] focusing on focusing," Brandon Heiges (11) said. "During practice, we focus on hitting the ball well, not popping it up and staying focused throughout the entire game."

In order for the team to improve, the players must commit many hours and months into practicing. "It's a lot of commitment," Delacuesta said. "It goes from summer ball to high school. You're straight into summer playing until fall, and when the snow comes down, that's where you stop."

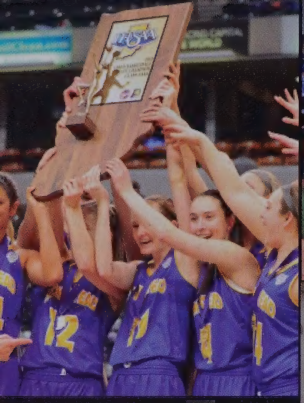
However, the commitment of the sport is not a problem for the players.

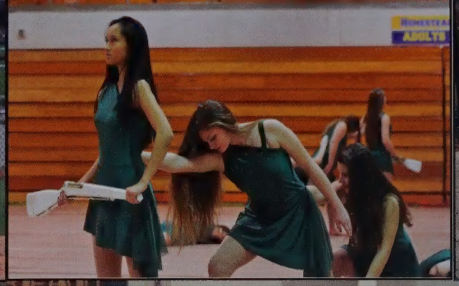
"I wouldn't want to be doing anything else," Heiges said.

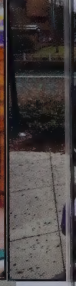
PHOTO BY KELLY ASIALA

Justin Miller (11) pitches in the game on Saturday, May sixth against Snider where Homestead took home a victory.

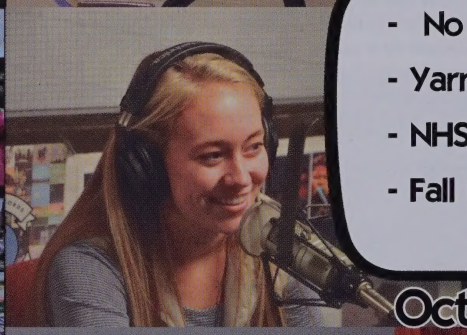
DESIGNED BY LAUREN BERTA







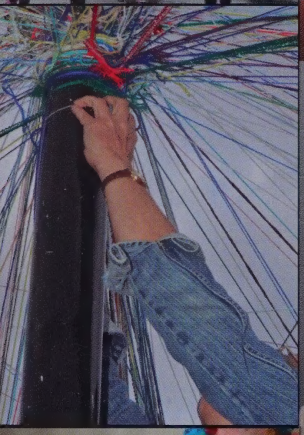
That's a W



- No Shave November
- Yarn of Unity Project
- NHS Inductions
- Fall Play Production, Rumors

October

November



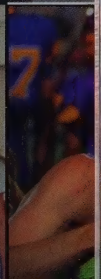
August

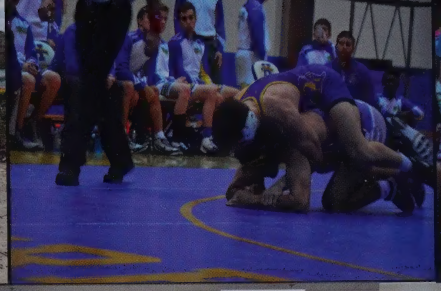
September

December

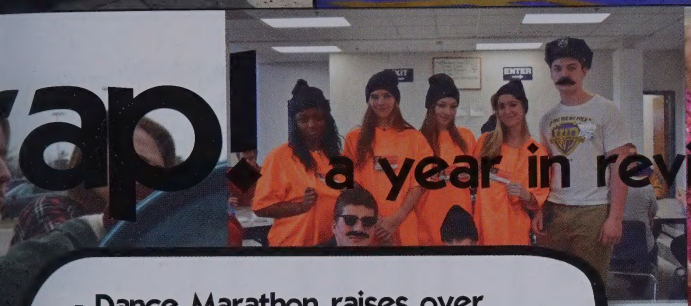
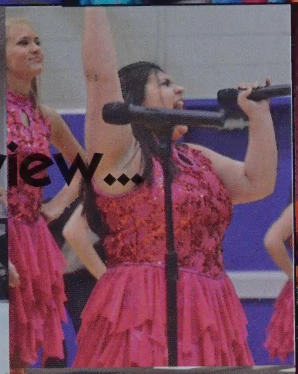
- New Hallway Art Introduced
- Tunnels discovered in the school
- New Latops for staff & students
- Survival of the Spartans

- Girls Basketball
- Presidential Inaug March
- Semi Formal gets actually happens!)
- Homestead Spiri

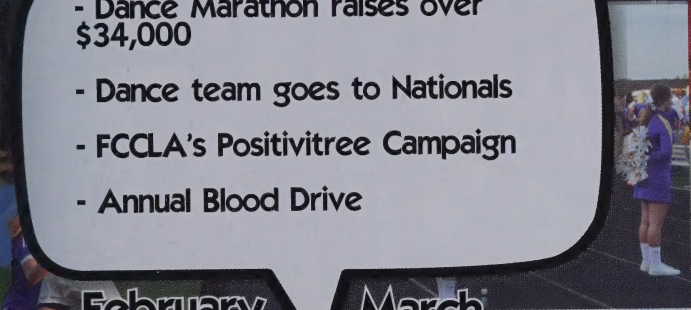




...ap! a year in review...

- Dance Marathon raises over $34,000
- Dance team goes to Nationals
- FCCLA's Positivitree Campaign
- Annual Blood Drive

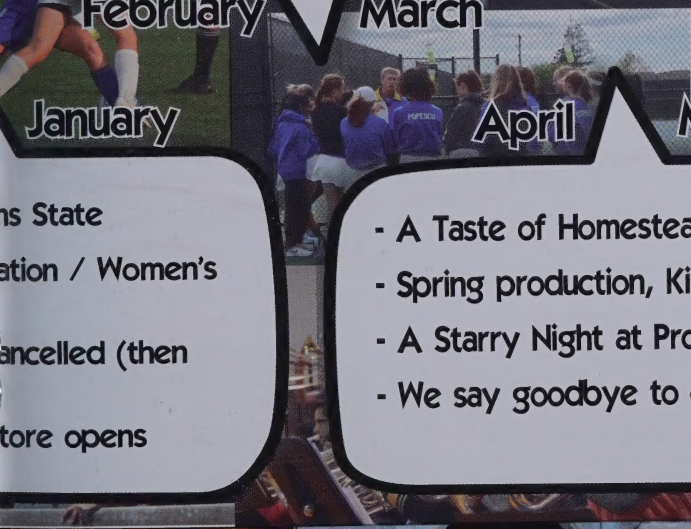


February March

January April May

...ns State
...ation / Women's
...ancelled (then
...tore opens

- A Taste of Homestead
- Spring production, Kiss Me, Kate!
- A Starry Night at Prom
- We say goodbye to our seniors!



Josh Majors (12) clears his bar during the pole vaulting event.

Kelsey Batt (12) gets ready to start her race.

IN THE FAST LANE

LISA CHEN

Writer

As regionals and state approach, the boys' and girls' track and field teams are looking forward to successful post-season runs. The team has many runners and field athletes that have the possibility of making it to state this year, such as the girls' 4x8 relay team.

"My goal is to win sectionals in the 3200 and then place top three in regionals to get to state," Ryan Ruppert (10) said.

The goal of making it to state is common as it marks the last stop in the post-season where the competition is at its highest. By making it to state, the athletes know that their practices have all paid off.

"It's a tough road to get to state but I've been running fast times and if we put forth our best efforts, we can get a lot of girls to the state meet," Kelsey Batt (12) said.

In order to reach their goals, the athletes not only have to work hard during practice, but also during the off season.

"There's a lot of in season sprints, but out of the season you have to lift weights and run in order to get stronger and faster," Chandler Roman (11) said.

For the field events, the practices focus on different dynamics in order to improve.

"I take weight and strength class to get stronger because that's a big part of throwing for shot put and discus," Aaron Niedzwiecki (11) said. "At practices we do a lot of technique and repetition."

While some believe field events are based purely off of strength, there are many more factors that affect a shot put or discus throw.

Field events are "harder than they look," Sarah Alexander (12) said. "It takes a lot of technique and almost years to be able to cultivate the throw you want."

An important aspect is working together as a team during practices.

"I do a lot of technique and the teammates push each other to be the best," Emma Mantica (10) said.

Overall, the team atmosphere is one of the best parts of the sport.

"My favorite part of being on the team is the people," Eleysha Lee (12) said. "Building your way up to being a senior and being able to lead everyone is amazing and we have a good time doing it."

To see the track and field athletes compete, head out to girls' regionals on May 23 and boys' regionals on May 25 at Indiana Wesleyan University. If the athletes make it to state, boys will compete on June 2 and girls on June 3 in Bloomington.

PHOTOS BY ALANA HAUPERT

Kai Johnson (10) jumps over a hurdle during the 300 meter hurdles race at the Snider meet.

LAX to the Max

KAYLEE YANOVICH

Sports Editor

Both boys and girls lacrosse are wrapping up their seasons and have high hopes for what is to come.

With the boys' team having a winning record of 6-5, and the girls season coming to a close with a record of 3-13, both are wrapping up the spring with promising predictions for next year, with some new players that seem to work with the team quite nicely.

"We've had a pretty good season," Regan Jones (11) said. "We have a lot of new players that came in and picked up the game really quickly and made our team awesome!"

The same has been said about the boys team, which does have strong senior leadership, such as Evan Elston (12), Liam Schoff (12), and Matt Wetherill (12), but also has many new players that have been excellent assets to the team.

"Well we have a starting freshman attackman and he does a lot up front and scores some goals, and we have a lot of other guys who have helped get more subs so the starters don't tire out," Jack Persinger (10) said.

With both teams built up strong, there is not a whole lot of room for weakness, and this shows through in each game.

"We have a really good dynamic on and off the field which makes the game that much better," Jones said.

While most people are under the impression that these two teams have a lot in common, they are actually quite different in many ways.

"The base is the same of lacrosse, but boys are able to be more aggressive when they play and also have a lot more protective wear," Jones said.

The biggest difference, said by both teams, was the physicality of the games. In boys, body checking is legal (and often encouraged by coaches), while girls are not allowed to have much contact with their opponents. For this reason, boys wear more protective gear such as helmets, mouth guards and shoulder pads. In girls, they only have protective eyewear and mouthguards (with the exception of goalies).

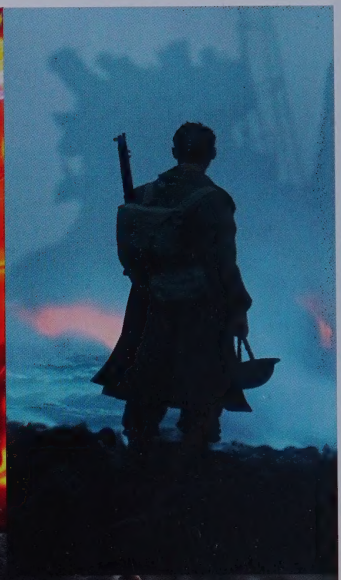
Besides the rules of the game, there is also a difference in the teams and equipment. There are ten players on the field of a boys game, but twelve in girls. Boys sticks are also longer than women's and are strung differently, making it much harder for the girls to shoot and handle the ball. The last prominent difference is the field size. Girls is typically ten yards longer than the boys in boys width and length.

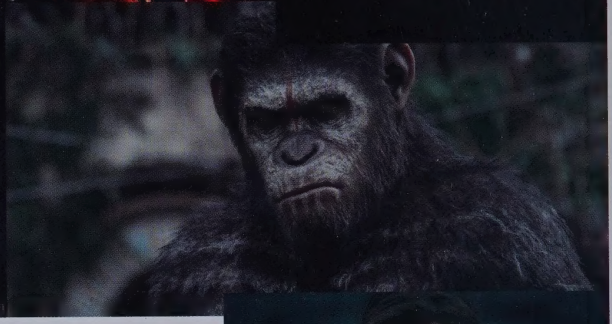
"Boys is pretty much a completely different game," Elston said. "Obviously in both games you try to score the goal but different shots are taken around the field."

While there is no relationship between the two teams necessarily, they both work hard to have the best season they can with rigorous amounts of training and conditioning.

The boys season comes to a close tomorrow, so make sure to head out and watch the game at Homestead against Guerin Catholic at 1pm.

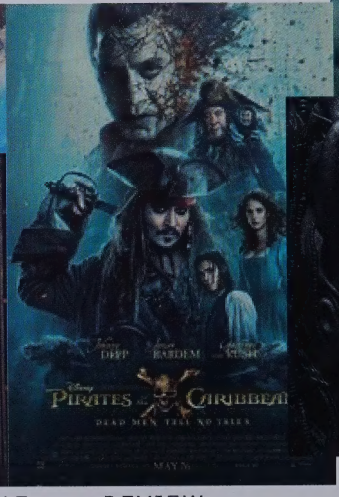
PHOTO COURTESY OF LEVERAGE PHOTOGRAPHY





ALIEN

COVENANT



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SCREEN RANT, ROLLING STONE, THE MARY SUE, YOUTUBE, IMDB, FILICKR AND WIKIMEDIA

Summer 2017 Movie Highlights

Jonathan Dauterman
Writer

Summer of 2017 will be unique for having a wide array of diverse, fun and enjoyable movies for audiences to watch, ranging in genre from sci-fi, to superhero, to fantasy.

Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2, the highly anticipated sequel to Marvel's 2014 blockbuster sci-fi superhero hit Guardians of the Galaxy, comes out on May 5. The general premise of the movie is that shortly after the events of the first movie, Peter Quill/Star Lord (played by Chris Pratt) is now searching for his father (played by Kurt Russel) with the help of his team. In the process, they face antagonist/anti-hero Nebula; encounter returning characters, such as the Ravagers; and meet new a new Guardian named Mantis.

Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales is set to debut on May 26. The fifth movie in the wildly successful Pirates of the Caribbean franchise features the introduction of Henry Turner, daughter of fan-favorites Elizabeth Swan and Will Turner, and astronomer Carina Smyth. The film's plot focuses on Salazar, another undead pirate, seeking revenge against Jack Sparrow through a MacGuffin known as the "Trident of Poseidon" that lets him control the oceans of the world, creating an intense game of cat-and-mouse between Jack and Salazar.

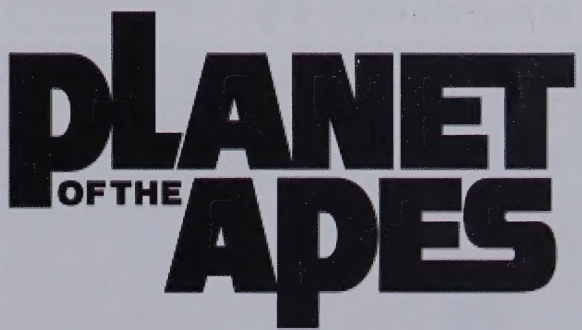
Spider-Man: Homecoming is the sixth movie based on the Marvel Comics character Spider-Man. Unlike the original trilogy of films by Sam Raimi or the duo of films by Marc Webb, Homecoming features Peter Parker as a high school sophomore. The main villain of the movie is Adrian Toomes, known to comic fans as "the Vulture", an ordinary person whose mechanical suit of armor, criminal tendencies and desire to provide for his family using illegal money drive him to become a supervillain. The highly-anticipated film is set to release on July 5.

Dunkirk is the ninth major film from revolutionary English director and screenwriter Christopher Nolan. Known previously for works on complex works such as Inception and Interstellar, and even the critically-acclaimed Dark Knight trilogy, Nolan's latest film focuses on the evacuation and eventual battle of Dunkirk during the height of World War II. While details for the movie have been kept air-tight in comparison to other movies on this list, it has been confirmed that the film will be told through the perspective of several British soldiers participating in what they acknowledge as little more than a suicide mission. The film is to be released on July 21.

Wonder Woman, which will be released on June 2, is the fourth major film in DC Comics' shared movie universe, and will be the franchise's first movie set outside of modern day. Following Wonder Woman's mission in Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice to reclaim WW1-era evidence that proves she is immortal, Wonder Woman is set to tell the origins of this story, with Diana being drawn into fighting alongside the Allies in the Great War by Allied officer Steve Trevor. Wonder Woman, which takes heavily after Greek mythos, has cast a main villain: Ares, a God of War, though details about his character have been kept to a minimum.

Alien: Covenant, which will be released on May 19, is a sequel to 2012's sci-fi horror thriller Prometheus, itself a prequel to the Alien series of horror films. Covenant will be the sixth film in the series but the second chronologically. Whereas Prometheus received mixed reviews for tackling philosophical ideas; Covenant is set to solve these problems by adopting a tone similar to the original film and answering some long-held questions about the franchise. Ridley Scott (director of the original Alien, as well as The Martian and Blade Runner) has directed the film.

War of the Planet of the Apes, coming to theaters in the US on July 14, will be the sequel to 2014's Dawn of the Planet of the Apes. The latest in the Planet of the Apes series that began with the 1986 movie of the same name, which focused on several astronauts arriving on a dystopian earth ruled by apes. These movies are part of a reboot/prequel trilogy that details the original conflict between the humans and apes. Rise of the Planet of the Apes introduced the mentally advanced ape Caesar (played by Andy Serkis via CGI effects); Dawn introduced the concept of a civil war among Caesar's apes, as well as a war between a clan of human survivors and Caesar's forces; and War will continue the events of the previous film by having the remnants of the US Military fight Caesar and his forces.



the show that EVERYONE and NO ONE is talking about

JONATHAN DAUTERMAN
Writer

13 Reasons Why, based on the widely successful 2007 novel of the same name, is the latest Netflix original series, and arguably the most controversial. The show focuses on teenager Hannah Baker, whose suicide rocks her small town and causes her peers to reevaluate their potential role in her choice to take her own life.

The series begins with high school junior Clay Jensen receiving a series of thirteen tapes recorded by Hannah and posthumously sent out by Clay's friend, Tony. He quickly learns that he is the eleventh person to receive these tapes, and that each tape details an event and person in Hannah's life that drove her to commit suicide, with every tape corresponding to one person she feels is responsible for her suicide and every person on the tapes having received a copy of the tapes at some point.

> **"I would recommend this for people who are more mature because there are some things in the show that young kids should not watch until they are older."**
> **-Ellie Tyler (9)**

As a result, the main story focuses on Clay listening to the tapes reevaluating his relationship with Hannah via flashbacks to determine what his role was in her suicide and why he was on the tapes; all while the events depicted between Hannah and her peers are shown on the tapes through their own set of flashbacks that often intertwine with Clay's.

The show already begins as being both emotionally and psychologically intense on the viewers and the characters, but as more truths about Hannah and her friends come to light, viewers truly begin to see how mentally troubled and damaged Hannah was in her final days.

An addition from the novel is the expansion on other characters besides Clay; not only do several subplots about the personal lives of Hannah's bullies begin to unfold, but we also get to see her parents' reactions to Hannah's death and an ever-growing conspiracy among her bullies to destroy all evidence of the tapes. As a result of these subplots, many new topics connected to Hannah's suicide begin to emerge, such as homophobia, domestic abuse, and sexual assault.

Dr. Phillip Downs, superintendent, recently sent out a letter to the parents of students, warning them of the show's intensity, subject matter and controversy. Downs discusses how mental health advocates have raised concerns about the show since its airing on March 31. Because of the dark content present in the series, many advise younger audiences to stay weary of the show, for fear that the story might be too severe for some viewers.

"I would recommend this for people who are more mature because there are some things in the show that young kids should not watch until they are older," said Ellie Tyler (9). "It is a very serious and deep show."

As a result of some of the scenes in the show, which include graphic depictions of rape and suicide, the show has generated much controversy. While the show pushes many young viewers to truly realize the seriousness of these issues and reevaluate how they are affecting the people around them, the massive viewership of the show led to jokes about the show and the mature topics it raises, specifically the "welcome to your tape" memes that circled the internet. In addition, many critics have declared that the series indirectly glorifies revenge because Hannah creates the tapes partially to underscore the importance of taking the time and effort to be kind to others, but also as a form of vengence against those who were not kind to her. Critics believe that this depiction of a revenge suicide could allow some young viewers to mistake suicide as a source of power, or a tool that would allow them to instill guilt on people who have wronged them.

However, many teenage viewers of the show, familiar with the setting of the series, claim the opposite. Noting Hannah's unique personality, her relationship with her peers, and an overwhelming amount of scenes focusing on her psyche and growing depression, many claim that the tapes were not a way to get revenge against her peers but to give closure to those that wanted answers for her inevitable suicide.

"Her tapes were her individual way of why she committed suicide," Ben Sherman (12) said. "It's not suggesting or provoking anyone to commit suicide. It's just a story."

Actors and creators of the show have also discussed how they hope the show's popularity can raise overall awareness of real-life suicides, and how the realism of situations in the show magnify this.

"It hurts to watch, but it's reality," Tyler said. "The things in the show actually happen. So many things happen in the show, it never gets old."

Seeing as Hannah's bullying and judgement from other students is perceived by many adults in-show as the main reason why she took her life, some critics have praised the show for its extremely strong anti-bullying message. By exploring the lives of characters like Courtney, Alex and Justin alongside Hannah's flashbacks, viewers develop the realization that they never know the impact their actions will have on others.

"If anything, it shows people what not to do," Aaron Jehle (11) said.

For better or for worse, it should be noted that, despite all this controversy, the show has still been noted by both fans and critics as being a fairly unrealistic depiction of high school.

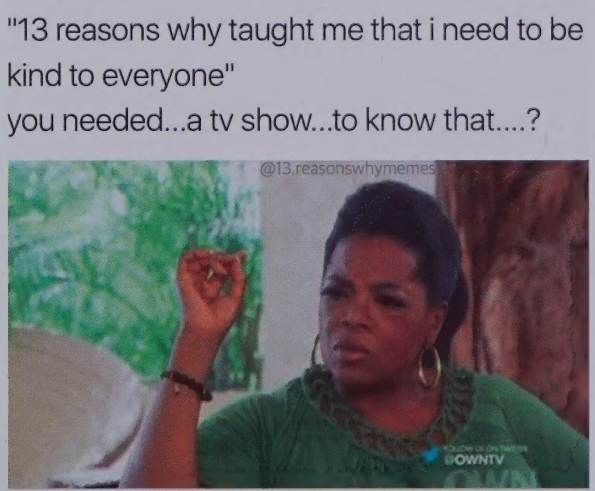
"Not every friend group is like that," Samantha McCardell (11) said. "The situations are similar to actual high school but like every good TV showa, the drama is a bit more intensified."

> **"If anything, it shows people what not to do."**
> **-Aaron Jehle (11)**

However, even the more unrealistic and harder-to-believe moments of the show cannot mitigate the mature and relevant themes and topics presented in the show.

Overall, this is a particularly intense series examining adult themes, acting as a deep analysis of high school drama, adolescence and depression.

Netflix US
@netflix
Welcome to your tape
hulu @hulu
Streaming only on Hulu. Not on Netflix. Try your free trial today! hulu.tv/2pcntmh
YOU CAN'T STREAM
ALL THIS ON NETFLIX



References to the series "13 Reasons Why" have become popular for Twitter feeds and memes across social media.

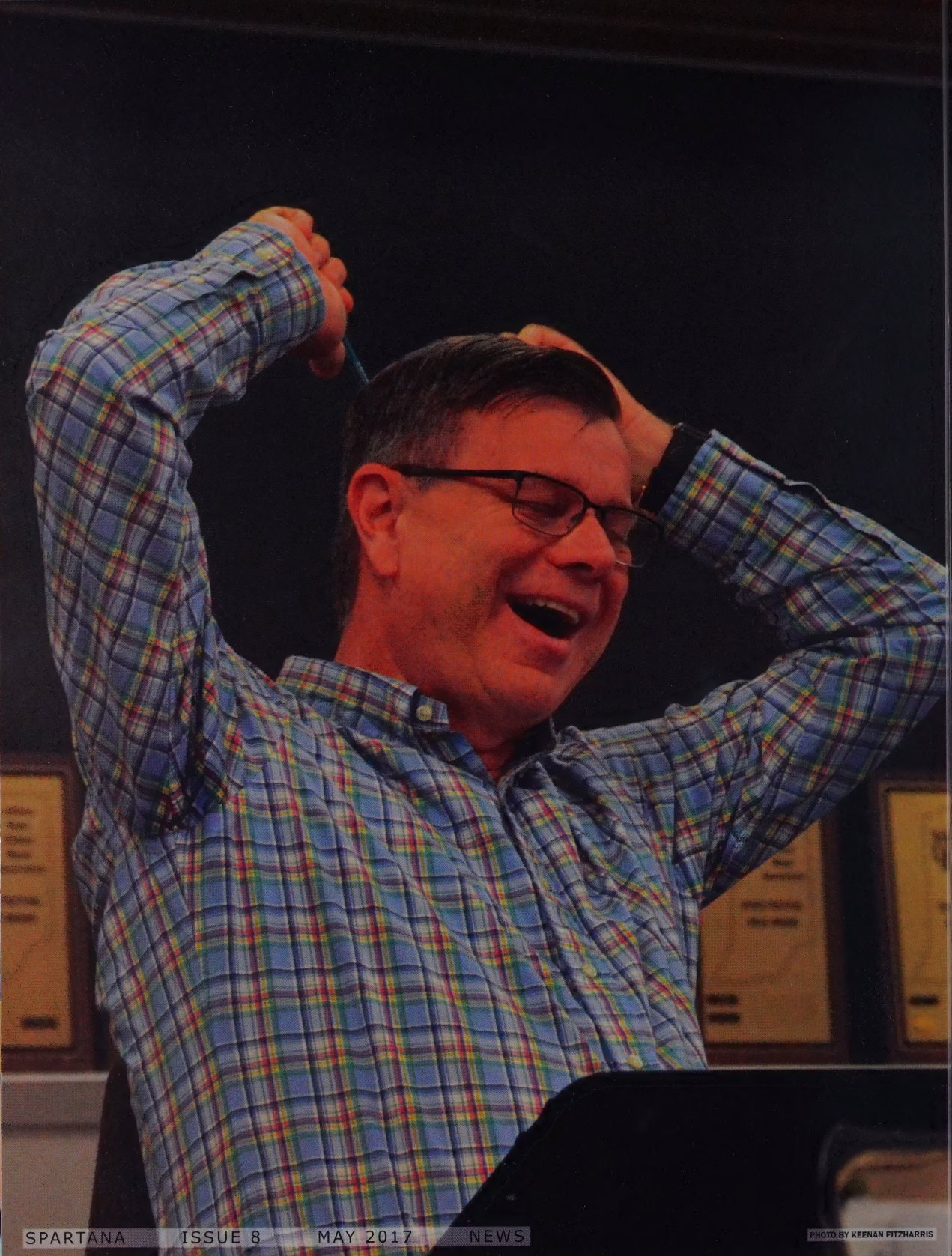


PHOTO BY KEENAN FITZHARRIS

THE FINAL NOTE

ETHAN ZWEIG

Copy Editor

The end of another school year marks a new chapter in the life of Steve Barber, band director, as he retires his 40 year-long career teaching music. His 30 years at the school have been filled with success, heartbreak, pride, and a steady stream of miracles.

"I'm going to miss the students dearly," Barber said. "Homestead has been a great learning experience for me. Everybody talks about what the teacher gives to the student, you know, the gift of knowledge or whatever it may be, but what they don't always realize is how much students give back to the teacher, and how much the teacher appreciates that. That's the joy of teaching, and I think that's why we're in education, because we get so much back in return."

Barber began teaching at Heritage High School as its band director, and took its music program, compiled of disinterested teenagers with little musical ambition, into a successful rival in band competitions. At such a small school, teachers would refuse to offer classes at the same time as band because such a large portion of the student body would be in the program.

After 10 years, Barber left Heritage to come teach at Homestead. Similarly, not much was expected of the band in its state at the time, but Barber saw greatness in what he was given.

"When I decided to accept the job at this program, I knew the potential that it had," Barber said. "It wasn't then what it is now. It took a lot of hard work by students and staff members and parents, supporting the program and expanding on what the group of students did the year before."

Quickly, the marching band of 90 students exploded into 300 members, and has seen 30 consecutive years of state final placements, 5 state championships, and 4 placements at national finals. Barber knows that the tradition of excellence will continue following his departure.

"You know, the slogan that's on the side of our truck, the "We Believe," really does have meaning," Barber said. "You have to believe, you have to set goals high, and you have to have dreams of excellence, and you can reach those dreams... [The] belief is the same that we've always had here. Each year get better, each year improve, each year offer new things to students, give experiences that are beneficial to all, and the program will grow... I think there will be nothing but success here for years to come."

Just as the school's band program has changed over 30 years, so too has Barber seen himself change.

"I'm a little more laidback [than I was when I started]," Barber said. "I think part of that is just because the job can take a toll on you. You know, there's a lot of stress that goes on here. Some of that is self-inflicted stress, but when you care about students so much and a program so much, you want those students to achieve and have success. Somehow I had to manage that stress and just make it a little easier on me."

Barber has made a positive impact on his friends, his fellow staff members, and his students, but he hopes that, as a teacher and a mentor, he can keep offering advice to those in need of help.

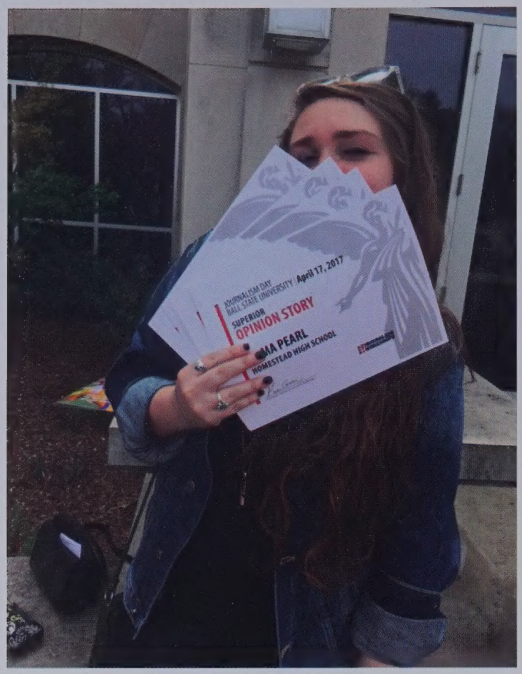
"The reason that this band program has had its success is the dedication and hard work and labor of everybody involved in the program: students, parents, and teachers alike," Barber said. "So [my advice is] keep doing what you're doing. Anything you can do to advance yourself, whether it's taking private lessons or going to a clinic or whatever it may be, not only does that improve the individual, but it also improves the group."

For 30 years, Barber has been a perfect role model to his students, a man who walks in each day with a smile, greeted by the unanimous admiration of everyone he meets. Although moving on will be hard, he feels the next step in his life is to spend more time with his family and relax after a career well spent. Surely, Barber will return to the band he taught to succeed, and the band will welcome him back with cheers and open arms, because, as they say in the band world, "The field is yours."

The day following his initial interview for this story, Barber reached out to Spartana staff and hoped that this final message could be included.

"The thing, as I thought back on everything we talked about, is when you build a program, it's not about one person. When you build a program, you surround yourself with people who care about each other and who are willing to sacrifice and improve a program. That's exactly what happened here. I just want to personally thank the present and past band members, band parents, staff, and especially Mr. Wadkins, because we really did work side by side to build this program, and the excellence that this program has seen was developed by all of these people.

SENIOR SELF-PLUG



emma_g_pearl

emmagpearl

EMMA PEARL

Life Editor

I hardcore struggled for awhile with deciding what I wanted to write my senior column about. Did I want to jump on the terribly motivational high-school-is-the-best-time-of-your-life bandwagon? Or did I want to shade the school and everyone in it with a well-developed rant that I would probably be able to turn in for an A+ argumentative paper? Well, neither. I clearly scrapped those ideas.

If you haven't picked up a Spartana this year, you may not know that I've taken the opportunity to spout off on my opinion about anything ranging from the flipped classrooms to online arguments to sex ed. Giving unsolicited advice to any and everyone has kind of become my forte at the good ol' HHS.

I know you all must be heartbroken that I will not be around next year to tell you what to do, but worry not. I've given it a go one last time before I leave.

So.

Take my word for it, or don't.

You do not have to take every AP course known to man to prove that you are better than other people. If adding on that extra AP means that you're sacrificing your mental health, then take the regular course and kill it. Do not feel pressured to enroll in a class if you have no interest in it, if you do not want to spend the entire year not learning, but regurgitating facts for a test that only lasts a few hours. Ignore your friends (or get new friends) if they try to look down on you for taking the classes you think are right for you. I know that the atmosphere at the school is competitive and I know that colleges like AP (believe me, I know) but do not run yourself over just to reinvent the wheel.

Do not be intimidated by the kid in your class who seems like he or she knows everything. They don't. Do not feel like you are not as important or not as ambitious as them because you have no interest in majoring in engineering. Yes, there is money, and yes, there are scholarships, but they are not worth the cost of your happiness and you can find scholarships just for being a good person. Your peers may do well, but do not let their success overshadow what you can accomplish.

Look for schools that make you feel good, for activities you get excited about. Do not do this or that because it is what looks good. Be a good person, but do not join a club just to look like one. Celebrate and revel in the things that you can do and the things that you like to do and know that these things will not be exactly the same as others.

Do not take what people say and bury it inside of you with all of your other insecurities. Do not feed that monster and let it make you feel small. People say dumb things--words that they regret and words that they never will--but even if your name is in their mouth, it has nothing to do with you. It has to do with the things they are holding inside themselves, the little demons urging them to project their own insecurities onto you, onto their friends.

Your boyfriend or your girlfriend is a living, breathing person. They are subject to change, as are you, and you are going to grow in different directions. Do not make your decisions now based on the desires and the future of something that will likely not last through college. Sorry. It won't.

Enjoy yourself. There will be more than a few times where you will want to pull your hair out or just go to sleep and not wake up for the next couple of years. Take a deep breath. You either know it or you don't. You'll either get it done or you won't. Some of these things will matter, some won't. Your primary concern is keeping yourself happy (as happy as possible, at least) and healthy. There is no sense worrying about the things, the people, the ideas that you can't change.

And my final piece of advice? Don't be stupid.

ETHAN ZWEIG

Copy Editor

In the early 1940s, my grandpa got a job at the Pekin Times in Pekin, Ill. His family was struggling to make enough money, so when his previous job couldn't pay him more than $10 per week, he respectfully resigned, walked down the street, and entered the office of the local newspaper business. Sitting at the front desk wasn't a receptionist or intern, but the editor-in-chief. He chatted with Grandpa, and knew immediately the potential standing in front of him. Grandpa got the job, and within a few months he was promoted to sports editor, allowing him to show off with the daily sports column "As Seen on the Sports Scene."

After the war, Grandpa moved to Chicago, where he dreamed of working for the Chicago Tribune. Instead, he ended up as the sports editor for the WGN Chicago radio station, announcing Chicago Cubs games at Wrigley Field. It wasn't what he originally wanted, but, as always, Grandpa made the most of his opportunities. The next 40 years were spent typing away broadcast scripts on his typewriter as the announcers read off his brief masterpieces. If you listen to old WGN Chicago sports radio broadcasts from the 60s and 70s, you can hear the clacks and chirps of his typewriter furiously crafting headlines in the background.

My mother went to college at Michigan University studying journalism, and worked at The Daily, the student newspaper there. She later got a master's degree in journalism at Ohio State University (so much for school loyalty) and worked for many years at various newspapers, including the Wichita Eagle Beacon and the Indianapolis Star. She encouraged both of my sisters to join The Spartana when they were in high school, and both rose to be executive editors.

Newspaper has been in my family for decades, but I never fully intended to be involved. I did particularly well in Journalism I, but I wasn't extremely fascinated with it, so I gave back all of the textbooks and recorders in December and prepared to take Computer Science in the spring. However, even though it was on my schedule, Computer Science I wasn't offered second semester, so I found myself being thrown into Personal Finance class, until Ms. Eid convinced my counselor to place me in Newspaper instead.

I've always been a facts-driven person. I prefer to compile evidence before I draw conclusions, and so I almost exclusively wrote news stories in my seven semesters on Spartana. I quickly learned how to approach strangers for information, and I also harnessed my schmoozing abilities to form useful bonds with administrators and teachers who often had important contacts regarding my stories.

These personal connections often turned into close friendships and interesting stories that don't show up in print, such as Mr. Lake's weekly gossip visits to the publication room, or the secret handshake Mr. Ginder and I had briefly before we both forgot it. I enjoy being the person "in the know," so building strong connections with people around the school kept me informed and socially active, which probably would not have happened without journalism.

The most important lesson I learned from the Spartana is how much impact students have on the school and the community. From organizing a school board debate to create awareness of local elections, or discovering a forgotten tunnel network beneath the school and convincing Mr. Lake to spelunk, change and progress ultimately come from students deciding to act towards what they want. As seen with new student clubs and organized events occurring regularly, Homestead successfully accomplishes its mission by showing students that their actions can leave positive impacts on others.

I've enjoyed sharing the stories of Homestead with the readers, and I hope the next generation of writers and designers will continue the excellence of the Spartana and the school that propels it to greatness.

SENIOR SELF-PLUG

"In 20 years, when I win the Nobel Prize, I'll donate like 20 bucks."

DESIGNED BY EMMA PEARL

Finals Schedule

Wed. May 24
Period 1 7:45 – 8:38
Period 2 (EXAM) 8:44 – 10:14
Period 3 10:20 – 12:01
A Lunch……10:14
B Lunch……..10:41
C Lunch……..11:08
D Lunch……..11:35
Period 5 (EXAM) 12:07 – 1:37
Period 6 1:43 – 2:35

Thurs. May 25
Period 1 (EXAM) 7:45 – 9:15
Period 3 (EXAM) 9:21 – 10:51
Period 4 10:57 – 12:38
A Lunch……10:51
B Lunch……..11:18
C Lunch……..11:45
D Lunch……..12:12
Period 6 (EXAM) 12:44 – 2:14
Period 7 2:20 – 2:35

Fri. May 26
Period 4 (EXAM) 7:45 – 9:25
Period 7 (EXAM) 9:31 – 11:11

@TheSpartana

@thespartana